BCPROGRESSBOARD

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 15, 2005

BC Progress Board Releases 2005 Annual Benchmarking Report – Volume I, External Performance Review

Vancouver, BC – The BC Progress Board tabled its Fifth Annual Benchmarking Report *"Comparing BC's Performance – Reaching Our Potential"* today with the provincial government. **Volume I** of the comprehensive two volume report benchmarks British Columbia's performance against other jurisdictions nationally, internationally, and regionally on measures of the economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society. Indicators used in the report reflect the most recent final data, usually for 2004.

The Progress Board continues to report on six core targets for British Columbia's overall performance. The province's annual rate of economic growth per capita remained at 3rd place in Canada in 2004, unchanged from 2003 following data revisions by Statistics Canada. BC also stood 3rd in real personal disposable income per capita in 2004 – the Board's standard of living measure – also unchanged from last year's report. The Board's core jobs measure – the employment rate for the working age population (ages 15–64) – continued to show year-over-year improvement, ranking 5th (2004), up from 6th place in 2003, reflecting continued strong province-wide job growth. BC ranks 1st on the Progress Board's environmental quality index, 1st on the Board's new health outcomes index, and 9th on the Board's new social condition index.

"British Columbia performed well, with economic growth outpacing the national average for the third year in a row in 2004", commented David Black, Chair of the BC Progress Board and President of Victoria-based Black Press Ltd. "Our benchmarking indicates 'strong to middling' performance on fully 15 out of 16 indicators of the economy, innovation and education in this year's report", Black continued.

Looking closer at BC's **economic** performance, the province scored highly on two key fiscal indicators --taxpayer supported debt (2004/05) and provincial surplus/deficit (2004/05), with both ranking 2nd among the provinces. BC also places 2nd on real average hourly wage levels (2004), 2nd for the lowest top marginal personal income tax rates (2005), and 2nd for net inter-provincial migration (2004/05). BC ranked 3rd in Canada on combined residential and non-residential business investment (2004/05). The province posts middling performance on productivity (6th, 2004) and per capita combined provincial and local tax burden (6th, 2004), while its performance on exports per capita remains weak (8th, 2004).

"The province has made very good progress on the bulk of the Progress Board's inter-provincial economic indicators, but a watchful eye is warranted with respect to BC's export performance and its at best mediocre productivity track-record", Black continued. "Enhancing BC's competitiveness through improving productivity and export-oriented economic diversification is important for long-term gains in individual standards of living", Black noted.

BC's overall **innovation** performance, measured by research and development expenditures relative to GDP, improved to 4th place in Canada (2002), up from 5th in 2001. BC placed 19th out of 31 OECD jurisdictions (2002) and 38th out of 61 provinces and states (2002) on the same metric. This year's report contains positive supplemental findings for BC's comparative performance on the commercialization of intellectual property from 15 post-secondary institutions in the province. Relative to the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada in 2003, BC – with only 11 percent of sponsored research in Canada – was home to 19 percent of Canadian inventions disclosed, 20.3 percent of patents, and 24.7 percent of spin-off companies formed.

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"British Columbia continues to make solid progress in its overall innovation performance as measured by expenditures on research and development", noted Tim McEwan, Executive Director of the Progress Board. "This year's finding that BC is a national leader in the commercialization of intellectual property generated by post-secondary institutions is something to celebrate and points to a key area of strength to build upon", McEwan continued.

Turning to **education**, BC's high school completion rate held steady at 79 percent in 2004, while standardized foundation skills testing results reveal that the vast majority of students) meet or exceed provincial expectations for levels of reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy. Supplemental information in the report on access to computers in K-12 schools indicates that BC's 7th place rank (2003) matches the national average of 5 students per computer.

Among the provinces, BC is ranked 1st for the all-inclusive proportion of citizens with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, at 58.1 percent of its population (aged 15 plus). BC posts the 2nd highest number of university graduates (aged 25-54, 2004) among the provinces, and ranks 6th for population (aged 15 plus) with a trades credential. BC has the 5th highest proportion of the working age population employed in natural and applied science and related occupations (2004), down from 4th place in 2003.

"Overall, BC's K-12 and post-secondary education systems continue to perform well relative to other provinces", McEwan noted. "The decade ahead will require the system to respond to skilled worker shortages across most sectors of the economy. A continued focus on educating highly skilled personnel is critical if BC is going to strengthen its productivity performance, living standards and overall quality of life", McEwan continued.

BC continues to place 1st on the Progress Board's **environmental quality** index, an average of inter-provincial rankings of urban air quality (3rd, 2003), greenhouse gas emissions (3rd, 2003), and protected areas (1st 2003).

"Together with supplemental information examining air, land and water quality in BC, our reporting shows the province continues to perform very well on measures where inter-provincial comparison is possible", McEwan noted.

This year's report includes a new **health outcomes** index averaging provincial performance on life expectancy (BC was 1st, 2002), cancer mortality (1st, 2002), cardiovascular disease mortality (2nd, 2002), infant mortality (5th, 2002), and potential years of life lost, an indicator of premature mortality, (1st, 2002). The report also includes supplemental information on comparative provincial wait times. BC matched the Canadian average of 4 weeks on wait times for non-emergency surgeries in 2003, and performed better than the Canadian average on average wait times for specialist visits (3 weeks in BC, versus a national average of 4 weeks).

"British Columbia continues to lead the provinces in most key health outcomes, and is also an international leader when it comes to life expectancy at birth, placing behind only Japan among member nations of the OECD", McEwan noted. "BC health outcomes show a general trend of absolute improvement over the last ten years; further progress will require BC citizens to reduce health risks such as smoking and obesity, and to adopt healthy and active lifestyles", McEwan concluded.

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This year's report presents a new index of **social condition**. BC ranks 9th in Canada on the social condition index based on an average of rankings of the province's performance on: low income incidence (or LICO, 2003, 10th); low birth-weight infants, a common measure of social condition (3rd, 2003); the reported incidence of personal and property crime (2003, 9th); reliance on income assistance (5th, 2003); and long-term unemployment (i.e. greater than 52 weeks, 10th, 2003). Supplemental North American benchmarking of low birth-weight newborns places BC 2nd (2004) among 61 provinces, US states and the District of Columbia. On the reported incidence of personal and property crime, BC placed 61st (2004) among the same jurisdictions, a clear sign that crime represents a serious social problem for the province.

This year's report also includes supplemental information from academic studies suggesting the estimated size of the underground economy from both legal and illegal activities to be between 12 and 15 percent of GDP.

The Progress Board commissioned Statistics Canada to undertake a preliminary examination of BC's higher reported rankings of low income incidence during 1997-2003. This examination found that a significant proportion is explained by lower levels of 'labour market engagement', a finding generally consistent with BC's lagging overall employment rate during the same time period.

"Though personal and property crime levels have improved in BC during the past decade, the Progress Board is concerned about our continued poor performance relative to other provinces and US states", David Black commented. "All levels of government and community leaders must come to grips with BC's persistent high crime rates, with the underground economy, and possible linkages that both of these problems have to long-term unemployment and the incidence of reported low income", Black continued. "In 2006, the Progress Board will undertake its own study of this highly complex and critically important area", Black concluded.

The Fifth Annual Benchmarking Report, "Comparing BC's Performance: Reaching Our Potential", is available on the Progress Board's website: www.bcprogressboard.com

The BC Progress Board is an independent Panel of 18 business and academic leaders which benchmark BC's economic, innovation, education, environment, health and social condition. The Board also advises on ways to improve provincial performance.

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BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

COMPARING BC's PERFORMANCE – REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

Volume I – External Performance Review: Inter-Provincial and International

Backgrounder

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

The Board reports in detail on **seventy-one** indicators and provides supplementary comparisons or analysis on topics of interest to explain data issues and provide further relevant information and commentary. The foundation of the Board's reporting consists of six core targets related to two overall goals for British Columbia. Twenty-six additional inter-provincial performance indicators, nine province-state metrics, and nine international comparisons shed further light on BC's overall economic and social performance. On a regional basis, twenty-one performance indicators provide an overview of urban-regional performance. These comparisons are supplemented by inter-regional comparisons where data permits.

Taken together with the investigative topic boxes, these comparisons provide the most comprehensive effort available benchmarking BC's economic and social performance externally (relative to other jurisdictions) and internally (urban versus rural and inter-regionally) on key outcome performance indicators.

Economy, Innovation and Education

In 2001, the Progress Board recommended that British Columbia work towards two overarching goals, with the first goal being: *Make BC a Leader in Economy, Innovation and Education in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Board reports BC's progress on three core target measures: economic growth, standard of living and jobs.

- **Economic Growth**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010. In 2004, BC ranked third for the annual growth of real GDP per capita; this is the same rank as in 2003 and up from BC's fifth ranked performance in 2002. BC ranked fourth for the level of real GDP per capita in 2004. Over the ten-year period 1995-2004, BC was tenth in the country for annual average improvement on this basic performance measure. Importantly, revised data show that BC placed above the national average growth rate of real GDP per capita in 2002 for the first time since 1993, and remained above the national average during 2003 and 2004.
- **Standard of Living**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010. In 2004, BC held onto its third place rank among the ten provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita. BC continued to rank tenth for ten-year (1995-2004) improvement in this core target, unchanged from last year's benchmarking report.
- **Jobs**: Target 1st or 2nd for the employment rate by 2010. In 2004, BC ranked fifth for the employment rate (age 15-64) among Canadian provinces, an increase from its sixth place rank in 2003 and seventh in 2002. BC's ten-year progress rank (1995-2004) remained in tenth place among the provinces, despite robust job growth in 2003 and 2004.

The report contains thirteen additional performance indicators that provide further information on BC's inter-provincial economic performance; note that the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Seven registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces: real average hourly wages (2004, ranked from the perspective of workers, 2nd); taxpayer supported debt (2004/05, 2nd); top personal marginal income tax rate (2005, 2nd); provincial deficit/surplus (2004/05, 2nd); net interprovincial migration (2004/05, 2nd); business gross fixed capital formation (2004, 3rd); and, university completion for those aged 25-54, (2004, 2nd). Five performance indicators registered middling performance (ranked between fourth and seventh): productivity (2004, 6th); per capita tax burden (2004/05, 6th); secondary school graduates (2003, 6th); research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2002, 4th); and, employment in natural and applied sciences (2004, 5th). One indicator registered in the weak category (i.e., ranked between eight and ten): total exports per capita (2004, 8th).

This year's report includes several supplementary topic boxes on ***economy, innovation and education***:

- ***Productivity Growth and Income*** - Productivity growth is fundamental to increasing the amount individuals have to spend or save and, therefore, each individual's material standard of living. It also underpins sustainable economic growth. Unfortunately, productivity growth in both Canada and BC has been stagnant for the past few years. Concerted focus needs to be placed on stimulating productivity growth to ensure higher standards of living in BC.
- ***Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth*** - Transportation and communication infrastructure are essential ingredients in the effort to increase productivity levels and promote economic growth. A host of statistics illustrate BC's overall infrastructure performance.
- ***Discussion of Employment Measures*** - Employment in BC grew by 2.3 percent between 2003 and 2004 for a third place rank in Canada, and by 1.7 percent per year on average between 1995 and 2004 for a sixth place rank for 10-year improvement. British Columbia's unemployment rate over the past decade ranged from a high of 8.9 percent in 1998 to a low of 7.2 percent in 2000 and 2004.
- ***Historical Comparison of Core Targets 1 through 3*** – Data from 1971 through 2004 for the first three Core Targets – economic growth, standard of living, and jobs – highlight that BC's economic performance needs to continue to improve to match both the performance of other jurisdictions and its own historical performance. BC fell below the national average growth rate for real GDP per capita in twelve of the last twenty years; however, BC placed ahead of the national average in 2002 and remained there in 2003 and 2004.
- ***Productivity*** - Canada's productivity growth and therefore overall labour productivity have lagged behind the US over the past two decades. Although Canada has had strong economic performance since 1995, our productivity vis-a-vis the US has deteriorated, especially since 2000. In 2004, Canada's business sector productivity was 74 percent of the United States level, the lowest since the 1950s; it has been deteriorating compared to other jurisdictions as well. British Columbia had a labour productivity advantage within Canada in several industries and industry groups, but had a disadvantage overall in 2004.
- ***Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade*** – The real value of exports from BC grew by 4.9 percent and imports grew by 6.4 percent between 2003 and 2004. Both of these growth rates were above the 1990 - 2004 BC average. British Columbia continues to be a highly trade intensive economy that exports the majority of its goods internationally (67.5% of

exports). For 2004, BC's top international exports were: Wood Products (32.4%); Pulp and Paper Products (16.0%); and, Energy Products (14.5%).

- ***Business Tax Competitiveness*** - BC and Canada share many of the successful ingredients of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) including a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructure, and export-oriented production. One missing element is a competitive effective corporate tax rate. Influencing this is Canada's high aggregate effective tax rate; second only to China among 36 competitor countries in 2005, and almost three times levels in Ireland and six times those of Singapore. In Canada, BC has the fourth highest rate, 7.0 percentage points higher than Alberta.
- ***Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates*** - British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is the second lowest among the provinces in 2005, at 43.7 percent, second to Alberta's 39.0 percent. Among the provinces, BC's basic personal amount - the amount of income one can earn without paying income tax - is the third highest at $8,676; Alberta has the highest at $14,523 and Quebec's is $9,330. BC has the third lowest federal/ provincial small business income tax rates and third lowest general corporate tax rate for 2005.
- ***Head Offices*** – Corporate head offices provide economic benefits directly, through the hiring and training of local residents and the use of local business services, and indirectly, through their contribution the local skilled labour force, the local economy as a whole, and activities that support the community. Various government policy decisions – on tax rates, infrastructure investment, and the regulatory environment – have a significant impact on a company's head office location decision. For these reasons, the number of head offices in an area over time can be a useful indicator of the strength of a local economy and its business attractiveness. In 2004, BC had the fourth highest proportion of the largest 500 company head offices among the provinces at 11.6 percent, behind first place Ontario (45.4%), second place Quebec (19.4%) and third place Alberta (14.0%).
- ***Size of Government*** – BC's government spending as a percent of GDP for 2004/05 was the third lowest among the provinces at 25.1 percent, behind Alberta (18.7%) and Ontario (23.5%). Research indicates that the relative size of a jurisdiction's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness, and increases in the size of government beyond optimal levels may produce little in terms of social progress.
- ***Population Changes in BC*** - Between 1990 and 2005, BC enjoyed the highest growth in overall population of any Canadian province, with growth of 29.3 percent, bettering Alberta (27.9%), Ontario (21.8%) and the Canadian average (16.5%). After five years of net outflow of people to other provinces between 1997/98 and 2002/03, net inter-provincial migration to BC was positive in 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- ***Immigration as Enabler and Growth Agent for BC*** - Throughout the history of BC, immigration has been a key driver of both population and economic growth. In Canada, the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7% in the 1950s to 18.4% in 2001. For 2001, 2002 and 2003 the net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (60%) of population growth. Debate surrounding the true economic and social impacts of immigration in BC will increase in the coming years, as demographic shifts necessitate heightened future dependence on immigration as a source of economic growth.
- ***Education and Technology: Access to Computers at School*** - Computer skills are increas-

ingly becoming an essential part of basic K-12 education and literacy. A first – and integral – step to gaining computer literacy is the ability to access and use computers at school. Internationally, Canada ranks below the US, Australia, and New Zealand (among others) in terms of number of 15-year-old students per computer. Interprovincially, BC ranks seventh, right at the Canadian average of five students per computer.

- ***Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Results*** - In 2004/05, 79% of BC grade four and 77% of grade seven students met or exceeded expectations in reading comprehension. Meanwhile, 93% of grade four students and 90% of grade seven students achieved this threshold in writing. Fully 87% of grade fours, and 83% of grade sevens met or exceeded expectations in numeracy.
- ***Education Spending and Outcomes*** - British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. Using real ($1992) figures, BC's spending was the second-highest in 1996/97 through 1998/99 and 2002/03 and the highest from 1999/00 through 2001/02. As with health care spending and outcomes, a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending levels and performance outcomes.
- ***Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training*** - The proportion of the Canadian population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 14.8 percentage points, from 41.5 percent in 1990 to 56.3 percent in 2004. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC but BC's proportion (58.1%) was 1.8 percentage points above the national average in 2004. In 2004, 10.6 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades' training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.5 percent.
- ***Canada and US Comparative University Completion*** - In 2000, 17.7% of Canadians and 25.0% of Americans (25 years and older) held a bachelor degree or higher. By 2004, the Canadian ratio had increased to 19.8% and the US ratio to 27.0%, narrowing the US-Canada gap by 4.8% between 2000 and 2004. Among provinces and states, British Columbia ranked 48th with a university completion rate of 19.9%, up from 18.1% in 2000. BC and Ontario (which placed 42nd with a 22.6% rate) were the only Canadian provinces with university completion rates higher than any of the US states.
- ***Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization*** - Universities and other post-secondary institutions account for a significant portion of innovation in Canada. In 2002, the higher education sector accounted for 26.7% of Canada's research personnel (33.4% of BC's) and, in 2003, 16% of Canada's Gross Expenditures on Research and Development (GERD). Although universities have always been a source of ideas through research and development, over the past few years Canadian post-secondary institutions have been making large scale advances in commercialization.
- ***Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide*** – Internet access is growing quickly in Canada. The ability to access the Internet means being able to retrieve large amounts of information and easily access many otherwise inaccessible services. British Columbia, at 70.6 % in 2003, had the highest percentage of households connected to the Internet in the province; the Canadian average was 64.2%. Despite this, an urban/rural connectivity divide - though improving - continues to exist in BC.
- ***Productivity and R&D Expenditures*** – Research and development (R&D) creates technological change, which fuels innovation processes and eventually makes new products and

services that make business more efficient, thereby increasing overall productivity. Results from US studies strongly suggest that R&D spending has a positive influence on productivity with a rate of return that likely exceeds that of conventional investments. Though often separated, public and private R&D have positive spillover effects on each other, as does foreign R&D on domestic productivity.

- ***High Skill Employment and Innovation*** – The connection between education and innovation is traditionally linked to professions directly involved in R&D, specifically those in the natural and applied sciences and in particular, engineering. The growing prominence of the knowledge-based economy, however, means an increasingly broad-based focus on skill development, education and training is critical for economic and social progress.

Environment, Health and Society

The second overarching goal is: *Make BC a leader in Canada on Environment, Health and Society in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Progress Board's report includes three specific targets:

- **Environmental Quality**: Target 1st among the provinces for environmental quality by 2010. BC's first place overall rank in 2003 on the Board's environmental quality index, which averages provincial performance on urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas, remains unchanged since the first Progress Board report. Data limitations continue to prevent ten-year progress reporting.
- **Health Outcomes**: Target 1st among the provinces for health outcomes by 2010. In 2002, BC ranked first among the provinces based on an average of its performance rankings for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost, unchanged from its first place position in 2001 and 2000.
- **Social Condition**: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for social condition by 2010. In 2003, BC ranked ninth in social condition based on an average of its performance rankings for the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), the low birth weight rate, the personal and property crime rate, the percent of the population on income assistance and the percent of total unemployment designated as long-term.

There are thirteen additional indicators used to measure BC's performance on ***environment, health and society***; note the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Eight of the performance indicators registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces: air quality (2003, 3rd); greenhouse gas emissions per capita (2003, 3rd); protected areas (2003, 1st); life expectancy at birth (2003/04, 1st); cancer mortality (2002, 1st); cardiovascular disease mortality (2002, 2nd); potential years of life lost (2002, 1st); and, low birth weight rate (2003, 3rd). Infant mortality (2002, 5th), and income assistance (2003, 5th) were the two middling performance indicators. Low income cut-offs (2003, 10th); personal and property crime rate (2004, 9th); and, long-term unemployment (2004, 8th) were the three with weak performance.

This year's report also contains a number of special topic boxes related to ***environment, health and society***. Brief highlights follow:

- ***Additional Environmental Measures*** - The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. To supplement our core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it, a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance. Of 46 monitored bodies, BC's water quality index showed 20 rated as excellent, 7 as good, 7 as fair, 4 as marginal and 8 as poor. In 2002 British Columbians generated 936 kg of non-hazardous solid waste per person, making BC the fourth lowest producer among the provinces. British Columbia's rate of diversion, the proportion of generated waste which is recycled off-site, was 29% in 2002, second only to Nova Scotia's 30%.

- ***British Columbia and International Protected Areas*** - BC's natural diversity has been a distinct element in the province's unique environmental heritage. British Columbia has increased its protected areas from 6.1% of the provincial land base in 1992 to 13.0% in 2003, the highest level in the country. The Canadian provincial average is 8.4%.
- ***British Columbia and Species at Risk*** - Living in Canada's most biologically diverse province brings a number of challenges in terms of balancing economic growth and population increases with the protection of our natural ecosystems. In order to better understand the province's numerous species, several provincial and federal organizations identify and track species at risk or in danger of extinction. Growing numbers of species at risk need to be interpreted with caution.
- ***The New Health Outcomes Index*** - The introduction of the Health Outcomes Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of health indicators. New to our core reporting structure this year are: cardiovascular disease mortality; infant mortality; and, potential years of life lost. With the exception of infant mortality these topics have been covered in previous reports as supplemental information; from this year forward, all three are included as performance indicators.
- ***Comparative Wait Times*** - While timely access to treatment is without doubt a significant factor in judging our healthcare system, "wait times" are just one indicator of the relative effectiveness and overall performance of the sector. Despite this, they have become an important barometer of the health of the system and a measure by which healthcare quality is frequently judged. Measuring and comparing wait times across jurisdictions is both complex and challenging.
- ***Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes*** - Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and likely will continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 2004/05 preliminary provincial rankings, BC placed fifth in overall provincial government health care spending per capita at $2,683. Similar to education spending and outcomes, a causal connection between high health care spending and health outcomes should be done with considerable caution.
- ***Health Risk Factors*** - Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest causes of death in Canada overall and in British Columbia. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use – which are controllable. The prevalence of these risk factors in BC is low relative to other provinces, with 18% of men and 20% of women classified as obese in BC in 2004, and 15% of those 15 and over classified as current smokers.
- ***Preventive Health Care*** - Health care costs consume a significant portion of BC's public finances, or fully 43% of the total provincial budget in 2005/06 ($11.6 billion). These costs will likely continue in the near future as BC's demographics reflect an ageing population.

Because of their potential to prolong life and generate savings, predictive and preventive health care will be of increasing importance as BC and Canada age.

- ***The New Social Condition Index*** - The introduction of the Social Condition Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of social indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are income assistance and long-term unemployment.
- ***Low Income Incidence Measures*** - The use of Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO) as a benchmark is justifiably criticized due to the relative nature of the measure. Using LICO, it is possible for everyone in society to be better off, yet have no reduction in low income, since relatively speaking the people at the lower end of the spectrum will still be spending a larger portion of their income on the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. An alternative measure is to estimate the cost of a basket of necessities and keep track of the number of people who cannot afford that basket, called the Market Basket Measure (MBM). LICO, nonetheless, remains the best of a flawed menu of "unofficial measures."
- ***Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia*** - British Columbia has historically had a high Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) ratio based on the percentage of families under the (1992 base) after-tax low income line. Between 1990 and 2003, BC had two eighth place ranks, and four each of seventh, ninth and last place ranks. The low income rate (LIR) gap between in BC is often explained by differences in employment engagement. For example, families in Vancouver were almost twice as likely to have no connection whatsoever to the labour market as families in Toronto (10.2% versus 5.3%). Little or none of the LIR gap was explained by demographic factors such as family size, age, immigrant status, education and enrolment status.
- ***Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres*** - A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police-reported crimes. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data as reported in Canada and the United States. The results show that, consistent with ranks reported for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property rate among major Canadian and American cities. While Vancouver has high property crime rates it ranks better on violent crimes, with rates well below those found in all the US cities profiled except Boston.
- ***The Underground Economy*** - A portion of BC's economic activity is never recorded in official statistics. Although the existence of the underground economy is widely acknowledged, the fact that it is hidden makes determining its size and economic impact difficult. Estimates of the size of the total underground economy in Canada – both legal and illegal – range from 11.7% to 15.3% of GDP.

Supplemental US Comparisons

The Progress Board has continued its supplemental comparisons of BC performance relative to the states of Washington, Oregon and California and the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, where there is comparable cross-jurisdictional data. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets in the following list.

On six indicators of ***economy, innovation and education,*** none placed in the strong category (i.e., first or second place). For three indicators, BC placed in the middling category (rank between three and five) – economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2004, 4th), top marginal personal income tax rate (2005, 3rd), and net inter-provincial (state) migration (2004, 3rd). BC registered weak performance (sixth or seventh rank) on standard of living (real personal disposable income per capita, 2004, 6th), jobs (employment to population ratio, 2004, 6th), and, research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2002, 6th).

Turning to supplemental US comparison measures for ***environment, health and society,*** comparable data are available for three indicators. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets. British Columbia placed in the strong category for urban air quality (2003, 1st) and the low birth weight rate (2003, 1st). British Columbia placed in the weak performance category for personal and property crime (2004, 7th).

Supplemental North American Comparisons

Supplementing the US State and Key Competitors comparison, are further indicators using all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in North America, i.e., the Canadian provinces, the 50 US states and the District of Columbia. Comparisons are presented for two core targets and four performance indicators. The classification categories range from first place to twentieth for strong, twenty-first to fortieth for middling and forty-first to sixty-first for weak.

British Columbia earned weak designations for three indicators: real personal disposable income per capita (54th, 2004), employment rate (45th, 2004) and personal and property crime rate (61st, 2003). British Columbia had middling ranks for net inter-provincial (state) migration (22nd, 2004) and research and development as a percent of GDP (38th, 2002). British Columbia had a strong rank for the low birth weight infant rate (3rd, 2003).

Supplemental International Comparisons

This year's report continues to include supplemental international indicators benchmarking BC against the 30 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Similar to US supplemental comparisons, the Progress Board has benchmarked BC where comparable data are available. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets. For ***economy, innovation and education,*** BC's performance is middling on all five of the available indicators: economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2003, 16th), jobs (employment to population ratio for the working age population, 2004, 11th), international exports of goods and services (2003, 17th), gross fixed capital formation (2004, 14th), and, R&D as a percent of GDP (2002, 19th).

For ***environment, health and society,*** BC placed strong on two performance indicators, life expectancy at birth (2003, 2nd) and low birth weight rate (1994 - 2003 average, 8th). For greenhouse gas emissions BC was weak in an OECD context (2002, 22nd).

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BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

COMPARING BC'S PERFORMANCE — REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

Fifth Annual BC Progress Board
Benchmarking Report

Volume I – External Performance Review:
Inter-Provincial and International

December 15, 2005

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Executive Summary

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

The Board reports in detail on **seventy-one** indicators and provides supplementary comparisons or analysis on topics of interest to explain data issues and provide further relevant information and commentary. The foundation of the Board's reporting consists of six core targets related to two overall goals for British Columbia. Twenty-six additional inter-provincial performance indicators, nine province-state metrics, and nine international comparisons shed further light on BC's overall economic and social performance. On a regional basis, twenty-one performance indicators provide an overview of urban-regional performance. These comparisons are supplemented by inter-regional comparisons where data permits.

Taken together with the investigative topic boxes, these comparisons provide the most comprehensive effort available benchmarking BC's economic and social performance externally (relative to other jurisdictions) and internally (urban versus rural and inter-regionally) on key outcome performance indicators.

Economy, Innovation and Education

In 2001, the Progress Board recommended that British Columbia work towards two overarching goals, with the first goal being: *Make BC a Leader in Economy, Innovation and Education in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Board reports BC's progress on three core target measures: economic growth, standard of living and jobs.

- **Economic Growth**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010. In 2004, BC ranked third for the annual growth of real GDP per capita; this is the same rank as in 2003 and up from BC's fifth ranked performance in 2002. BC ranked fourth for the level of real GDP per capita in 2004. Over the ten-year period 1995-2004, BC was tenth in the country for annual average improvement on this basic performance measure. Importantly, revised data show that BC placed above the national average growth rate of real GDP per capita in 2002 for the first time since 1993, and remained above the national average during 2003 and 2004.
- **Standard of Living**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010. In 2004, BC held onto its third place rank among the ten provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita. BC continued to rank tenth for ten-year (1995-2004) improvement in this core target, unchanged from last year's benchmarking report.
- **Jobs**: Target 1st or 2nd for the employment rate by 2010. In 2004, BC ranked fifth for the employment rate (age 15-64) among Canadian provinces, an increase from its sixth place rank in 2003 and seventh in 2002. BC's ten-year progress rank (1995-2004) remained in tenth place among the provinces, despite robust job growth in 2003 and 2004.

The report contains thirteen additional performance indicators that provide further information on BC's inter-provincial economic performance; note that the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Seven registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces: real average hourly wages (2004, ranked from the perspective of workers, 2nd); taxpayer supported debt (2004/05, 2nd); top personal marginal income tax rate (2005, 2nd); provincial deficit/surplus (2004/05, 2nd); net interprovincial migration (2004/05, 2nd); business gross fixed capital formation (2004, 3rd); and, university completion for those aged 25-54, (2004, 2nd). Five performance indicators registered middling performance (ranked between fourth and seventh): productivity (2004, 6th); per capita tax burden (2004/05, 6th); secondary school graduates (2003, 6th); research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2002, 4th); and, employment in natural and applied sciences (2004, 5th). One indicator registered in the weak category (i.e., ranked between eight and ten): total exports per capita (2004, 8th).

This year's report includes several supplementary topic boxes on ***economy, innovation and education***:

- ***Productivity Growth and Income*** - Productivity growth is fundamental to increasing the amount individuals have to spend or save and, therefore, each individual's material standard of living. It also underpins sustainable economic growth. Unfortunately, productivity growth in both Canada and BC has been stagnant for the past few years. Concerted focus needs to be placed on stimulating productivity growth to ensure higher standards of living in BC.

- ***Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth*** - Transportation and communication infrastructure are essential ingredients in the effort to increase productivity levels and promote economic growth. A host of statistics illustrate BC's overall infrastructure performance.

- ***Discussion of Employment Measures*** - Employment in BC grew by 2.3 percent between 2003 and 2004 for a third place rank in Canada, and by 1.7 percent per year on average between 1995 and 2004 for a sixth place rank for 10-year improvement. British Columbia's unemployment rate over the past decade ranged from a high of 8.9 percent in 1998 to a low of 7.2 percent in 2000 and 2004.

- ***Historical Comparison of Core Targets 1 through 3*** – Data from 1971 through 2004 for the first three Core Targets – economic growth, standard of living, and jobs – highlight that BC's economic performance needs to continue to improve to match both the performance of other jurisdictions and its own historical performance. BC fell below the national average growth rate for real GDP per capita in twelve of the last twenty years; however, BC placed ahead of the national average in 2002 and remained there in 2003 and 2004.

- ***Productivity*** - Canada's productivity growth and therefore overall labour productivity have lagged behind the US over the past two decades. Although Canada has had strong economic performance since 1995, our productivity vis-a-vis the US has deteriorated, especially since 2000. In 2004, Canada's business sector productivity was 74 percent of the United States level, the lowest since the 1950s; it has been deteriorating compared to other jurisdictions as well. British Columbia had a labour productivity advantage within Canada in several industries and industry groups, but had a disadvantage overall in 2004.

- ***Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade*** – The real value of exports from BC grew by 4.9 percent and imports grew by 6.4 percent between 2003 and 2004. Both of these growth rates were above the 1990 - 2004 BC average. British Columbia continues to be a highly trade intensive economy that exports the majority of its goods internationally (67.5% of exports). For 2004, BC's top international exports were: Wood Products (32.4%); Pulp and Paper Products (16.0%); and, Energy Products (14.5%).

- ***Business Tax Competitiveness*** **-** BC and Canada share many of the successful ingredients of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) including a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructure, and export-oriented production. One missing element is a competitive effective corporate tax rate. Influencing this is Canada's high aggregate effective tax rate; second only to China among 36 competitor countries in 2005, and almost three times levels in Ireland and six times those of Singapore. In Canada, BC has the fourth highest rate, 7.0 percentage points higher than Alberta.
- ***Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates*** **-** British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is the second lowest among the provinces in 2005, at 43.7 percent, second to Alberta's 39.0 percent. Among the provinces, BC's basic personal amount - the amount of income one can earn without paying income tax - is the third highest at $8,676; Alberta has the highest at $14,523 and Quebec's is $9,330. BC has the third lowest federal/provincial small business income tax rates and third lowest general corporate tax rate for 2005.
- ***Head Offices*** – Corporate head offices provide economic benefits directly, through the hiring and training of local residents and the use of local business services, and indirectly, through their contribution the local skilled labour force, the local economy as a whole, and activities that support the community. Various government policy decisions – on tax rates, infrastructure investment, and the regulatory environment – have a significant impact on a company's head office location decision. For these reasons, the number of head offices in an area over time can be a useful indicator of the strength of a local economy and its business attractiveness. In 2004, BC had the fourth highest proportion of the largest 500 company head offices among the provinces at 11.6 percent, behind first place Ontario (45.4%), second place Quebec (19.4%) and third place Alberta (14.0%).
- ***Size of Government*** – BC's government spending as a percent of GDP for 2004/05 was the third lowest among the provinces at 25.1 percent, behind Alberta (18.7%) and Ontario (23.5%). Research indicates that the relative size of a jurisdiction's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness, and increases in the size of government beyond optimal levels may produce little in terms of social progress.
- ***Population Changes in BC*** **-** Between 1990 and 2005, BC enjoyed the highest growth in overall population of any Canadian province, with growth of 29.3 percent, bettering Alberta (27.9%), Ontario (21.8%) and the Canadian average (16.5%). After five years of net outflow of people to other provinces between 1997/98 and 2002/03, net inter-provincial migration to BC was positive in 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- ***Immigration as Enabler and Growth Agent for BC*** **-** Throughout the history of BC, immigration has been a key driver of both population and economic growth. In Canada, the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7% in the 1950s to 18.4% in 2001. For 2001, 2002 and 2003 the net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (60%) of population growth. Debate surrounding the true economic and social impacts of immigration in BC will increase in the coming years, as demographic shifts necessitate heightened future dependence on immigration as a source of economic growth.
- ***Education and Technology: Access to Computers at School*** **-** Computer skills are increasingly becoming an essential part of basic K-12 education and literacy. A first – and integral – step to gaining computer literacy is the ability to access and use computers at school. Internationally, Canada ranks below the US, Australia, and New Zealand (among others)

in terms of number of 15-year-old students per computer. Interprovincially, BC ranks seventh, right at the Canadian average of five students per computer.

- ***Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Results*** - In 2004/05, 79% of BC grade four and 77% of grade seven students met or exceeded expectations in reading comprehension. Meanwhile, 93% of grade four students and 90% of grade seven students achieved this threshold in writing. Fully 87% of grade fours, and 83% of grade sevens met or exceeded expectations in numeracy.
- ***Education Spending and Outcomes*** - British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. Using real ($1992) figures, BC's spending was the second-highest in 1996/97 through 1998/99 and 2002/03 and the highest from 1999/00 through 2001/02. As with health care spending and outcomes, a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending levels and performance outcomes.
- ***Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training*** - The proportion of the Canadian population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 14.8 percentage points, from 41.5 percent in 1990 to 56.3 percent in 2004. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC but BC's proportion (58.1%) was 1.8 percentage points above the national average in 2004. In 2004, 10.6 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.5 percent.
- ***Canada and US Comparative University Completion*** - In 2000, 17.7% of Canadians and 25.0% of Americans (25 years and older) held a bachelor degree or higher. By 2004, the Canadian ratio had increased to 19.8% and the US ratio to 27.0%, narrowing the US-Canada gap by 4.8% between 2000 and 2004. Among provinces and states, British Columbia ranked 48th with a university completion rate of 19.9%, up from 18.1% in 2000. BC and Ontario (which placed 42nd with a 22.6% rate) were the only Canadian provinces with university completion rates higher than any of the US states.
- ***Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization*** - Universities and other post-secondary institutions account for a significant portion of innovation in Canada. In 2002, the higher education sector accounted for 26.7% of Canada's research personnel (33.4% of BC's) and, in 2003, 16% of Canada's Gross Expenditures on Research and Development (GERD). Although universities have always been a source of ideas through research and development, over the past few years Canadian post-secondary institutions have been making large scale advances in commercialization.
- ***Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide*** – Internet access is growing quickly in Canada. The ability to access the Internet means being able to retrieve large amounts of information and easily access many otherwise inaccessible services. British Columbia, at 70.6 % in 2003, had the highest percentage of households connected to the Internet in the province; the Canadian average was 64.2%. Despite this, an urban/rural connectivity divide - though improving - continues to exist in BC.
- ***Productivity and R&D Expenditures*** – Research and development (R&D) creates technological change, which fuels innovation processes and eventually makes new products and services that make business more efficient, thereby increasing overall productivity. Results from US studies strongly suggest that R&D spending has a positive influence on productivity with a rate of return that likely exceeds that of conventional investments. Though often

separated, public and private R&D have positive spillover effects on each other, as does foreign R&D on domestic productivity.

- ***High Skill Employment and Innovation*** – The connection between education and innovation is traditionally linked to professions directly involved in R&D, specifically those in the natural and applied sciences and in particular, engineering. The growing prominence of the knowledge-based economy, however, means an increasingly broad-based focus on skill development, education and training is critical for economic and social progress.

Environment, Health and Society

The second overarching goal is: *Make BC a leader in Canada on Environment, Health and Society in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Progress Board's report includes three specific targets:

- **Environmental Quality**: Target 1st among the provinces for environmental quality by 2010. BC's first place overall rank in 2003 on the Board's environmental quality index, which averages provincial performance on urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas, remains unchanged since the first Progress Board report. Data limitations continue to prevent ten-year progress reporting.
- **Health Outcomes**: Target 1st among the provinces for health outcomes by 2010. In 2002, BC ranked first among the provinces based on an average of its performance rankings for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost, unchanged from its first place position in 2001 and 2000.
- **Social Condition**: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for social condition by 2010. In 2003, BC ranked ninth in social condition based on an average of its performance rankings for the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), the low birth weight rate, the personal and property crime rate, the percent of the population on income assistance and the percent of total unemployment designated as long-term.

There are thirteen additional indicators used to measure BC's performance on ***environment, health and society***; note the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Eight of the performance indicators registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces: air quality (2003, 3rd); greenhouse gas emissions per capita (2003, 3rd); protected areas (2003, 1st); life expectancy at birth (2003/04, 1st); cancer mortality (2002, 1st); cardiovascular disease mortality (2002, 2nd); potential years of life lost (2002, 1st); and, low birth weight rate (2003, 3rd). Infant mortality (2002, 5th), and income assistance (2003, 5th) were the two middling performance indicators. Low income cut-offs (2003, 10th); personal and property crime rate (2004, 9th); and, long-term unemployment (2004, 8th) were the three with weak performance.

This year's report also contains a number of special topic boxes related to ***environment, health and society***. Brief highlights follow:

- ***Additional Environmental Measures*** - The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. To supplement our core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it, a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance. Of

46 monitored bodies, BC's water quality index showed 20 rated as excellent, 7 as good, 7 as fair, 4 as marginal and 8 as poor. In 2002 British Columbians generated 936 kg of non-hazardous solid waste per person, making BC the fourth lowest producer among the provinces. British Columbia's rate of diversion, the proportion of generated waste which is recycled off-site, was 29% in 2002, second only to Nova Scotia's 30%.

- ***British Columbia and International Protected Areas*** - BC's natural diversity has been a distinct element in the province's unique environmental heritage. British Columbia has increased its protected areas from 6.1% of the provincial land base in 1992 to 13.0% in 2003, the highest level in the country. The Canadian provincial average is 8.4%.
- ***British Columbia and Species at Risk*** - Living in Canada's most biologically diverse province brings a number of challenges in terms of balancing economic growth and population increases with the protection of our natural ecosystems. In order to better understand the province's numerous species, several provincial and federal organizations identify and track species at risk or in danger of extinction. Growing numbers of species at risk need to be interpreted with caution.
- ***The New Health Outcomes Index*** - The introduction of the Health Outcomes Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of health indicators. New to our core reporting structure this year are: cardiovascular disease mortality; infant mortality; and, potential years of life lost. With the exception of infant mortality these topics have been covered in previous reports as supplemental information; from this year forward, all three are included as performance indicators.
- ***Comparative Wait Times*** - While timely access to treatment is without doubt a significant factor in judging our healthcare system, "wait times" are just one indicator of the relative effectiveness and overall performance of the sector. Despite this, they have become an important barometer of the health of the system and a measure by which healthcare quality is frequently judged. Measuring and comparing wait times across jurisdictions is both complex and challenging.
- ***Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes*** - Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and likely will continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 2004/05 preliminary provincial rankings, BC placed fifth in overall provincial government health care spending per capita at $2,683. Similar to education spending and outcomes, a causal connection between high health care spending and health outcomes should be done with considerable caution.
- ***Health Risk Factors*** - Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest causes of death in Canada overall and in British Columbia. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use – which are controllable. The prevalence of these risk factors in BC is low relative to other provinces, with 18% of men and 20% of women classified as obese in BC in 2004, and 15% of those 15 and over classified as current smokers.
- ***Preventive Health Care*** - Health care costs consume a significant portion of BC's public finances, or fully 43% of the total provincial budget in 2005/06 ($11.6 billion). These costs will likely continue in the near future as BC's demographics reflect an ageing population. Because of their potential to prolong life and generate savings, predictive and preventive health care will be of increasing importance as BC and Canada age.

- ***The New Social Condition Index*** - The introduction of the Social Condition Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of social indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are income assistance and long-term unemployment.
- ***Low Income Incidence Measures*** - The use of Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO) as a benchmark is justifiably criticized due to the relative nature of the measure. Using LICO, it is possible for everyone in society to be better off, yet have no reduction in low income, since relatively speaking the people at the lower end of the spectrum will still be spending a larger portion of their income on the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. An alternative measure is to estimate the cost of a basket of necessities and keep track of the number of people who cannot afford that basket, called the Market Basket Measure (MBM). LICO, nonetheless, remains the best of a flawed menu of "unofficial measures."
- ***Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia*** - British Columbia has historically had a high Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) ratio based on the percentage of families under the (1992 base) after-tax low income line. Between 1990 and 2003, BC had two eighth place ranks, and four each of seventh, ninth and last place ranks. The low income rate (LIR) gap between in BC is often explained by differences in employment engagement. For example, families in Vancouver were almost twice as likely to have no connection whatsoever to the labour market as families in Toronto (10.2% versus 5.3%). Little or none of the LIR gap was explained by demographic factors such as family size, age, immigrant status, education and enrolment status.
- ***Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres*** - A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police-reported crimes. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data as reported in Canada and the United States. The results show that, consistent with ranks reported for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property rate among major Canadian and American cities. While Vancouver has high property crime rates it ranks better on violent crimes, with rates well below those found in all the US cities profiled except Boston.
- ***The Underground Economy*** - A portion of BC's economic activity is never recorded in official statistics. Although the existence of the underground economy is widely acknowledged, the fact that it is hidden makes determining its size and economic impact difficult. Estimates of the size of the total underground economy in Canada – both legal and illegal – range from 11.7% to 15.3% of GDP.

Supplemental US Comparisons

The Progress Board has continued its supplemental comparisons of BC performance relative to the states of Washington, Oregon and California and the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, where there is comparable cross-jurisdictional data. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets in the following list.

On six indicators of ***economy, innovation and education,*** none placed in the strong category (i.e., first or second place). For three indicators, BC placed in the middling category (rank between three and five) – economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2004, 4th), top marginal personal income tax rate (2005, 3rd), and net inter-provincial (state) migration (2004, 3rd). BC registered weak performance (sixth or seventh rank) on standard of living (real personal disposable income per capita, 2004, 6th), jobs (employment to population ratio, 2004, 6th), and, research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2002, 6th).

Turning to supplemental US comparison measures for ***environment, health and society,*** comparable data are available for three indicators. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets. British Columbia placed in the strong category for urban air quality (2003, 1st) and the low birth weight rate (2003, 1st). British Columbia placed in the weak performance category for personal and property crime (2004, 7th).

Supplemental North American Comparisons

Supplementing the US State and Key Competitors comparison, are further indicators using all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in North America, i.e., the Canadian provinces, the 50 US states and the District of Columbia. Comparisons are presented for two core targets and four performance indicators. The classification categories range from first place to twentieth for strong, twenty-first to fortieth for middling and forty-first to sixty-first for weak.

British Columbia earned weak designations for three indicators: real personal disposable income per capita (54th, 2004), employment rate (45th, 2004) and personal and property crime rate (61st, 2003). British Columbia had middling ranks for net inter-provincial (state) migration (22nd, 2004) and research and development as a percent of GDP (38th, 2002). British Columbia had a strong rank for the low birth weight infant rate (3rd, 2003).

Supplemental International Comparisons

This year's report continues to include supplemental international indicators benchmarking BC against the 30 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Similar to US supplemental comparisons, the Progress Board has benchmarked BC where comparable data are available. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets. For ***economy, innovation and education,*** BC's performance is middling on all five of the available indicators: economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2003, 16th), jobs (employment to population ratio for the working age population, 2004, 11th), international exports of goods and services (2003, 17th), gross fixed capital formation (2004, 14th), and, R&D as a percent of GDP (2002, 19th).

For ***environment, health and society,*** BC placed strong on two performance indicators, life expectancy at birth (2003, 2nd) and low birth weight rate (1994 - 2003 average, 8th). For greenhouse gas emissions BC was weak in an OECD context (2002, 22nd).

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I. Benchmarking British Columbia

Introduction

This is the fifth annual report under the benchmarking mandate of the BC Progress Board. Established in July 2001 and comprised of 18 British Columbians with a broad range of experience, the Progress Board has two mandates:

- To provide advice on whether and to what extent the province is improving its competitive position and quality of life by establishing an ongoing means to measure and benchmark British Columbia's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- To identify issues of importance to the province's future economic prosperity and advise the Premier on strategies, policies and actions necessary to increase the economic and social well-being of British Columbians.

The benchmarking work of the BC Progress Board is the most comprehensive review available of the state of BC's economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society performance.

The 2005 Reporting Framework

The BC Progress Board's Benchmarking Report for 2005 is split into two volumes to highlight both BC's ***internal*** and ***external*** performance.

The first volume contains the bulk of our reporting and is entitled "External Performance Review," presenting inter-provincial, US state and international comparisons.

The second volume is an expanded look within British Columbia and is entitled the "Internal Performance Review," comparing the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA, the Abbotsford CMA and Regional British Columbia. Also included are supplemental inter-regional comparisons based on BC's eight Development Regions and five Health Authorities.

New in the 2005 Reporting Framework

The fifth annual Benchmarking report features an expanded set of performance indicators in the environment, health and society section. Many of these were previously included as topic boxes or supplemental comparisons and will be familiar to readers of our past reports. The other change from past practice is the creation of two new indices. These indices, for health and society, take the place of life expectancy at birth and the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the low income cut-off (LICO) as Core Targets 5 and 6. Life expectancy at birth is now reported as Performance Indicator 17 and is included in the new Health Outcomes index. Similarly, the percent of families and unattached individuals with incomes below the low income cut-off (LICO) is reported as Performance Indicator 22 and is a component of the new Social Condition index.

In This Volume

"Volume I: External Performance Review – Interprovincial and International" contains the "core" competitive benchmarking work of the BC Progress Board. This volume, our flagship publication, reports progress on our 2010 benchmarks to restore BC to a leadership position within Canada. The interprovincial Core Target and Performance Indicator comparisons are supplemented by a critical assessment of BC's performance relative to key U.S. competitors and member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as a host of Topic Boxes highlighting issues associated with our core benchmarking. These Supplemental Indicators and Topic Boxes allow us to add considerable flexibility to our work while maintaining a consistent "go forward" reporting structure.

The following descriptive icons appear on the comparisons in this Report:

🎯 Core Target Indicator

📈 Performance Indicator

🚩 State – Provincial Comparison

🌎 International Comparison

Reaching our Potential: North Star 2010

The BC Progress Board is now in its fifth annual reporting cycle.

The Board continues to believe that British Columbia has the natural and human endowments to become a leader in Canada by 2010. We also believe that BC has the necessary attributes to be a leader when judged against its key competing jurisdictions, and that the province is also well placed to eventually become a global leader. For this reason, the Board has continued the task of benchmarking BC's fortunes relative to key member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development where there are comparable data available.

The Progress Board maintains two overarching goals for BC as it navigates toward a "North Star" leadership position in 2010. These goals are:

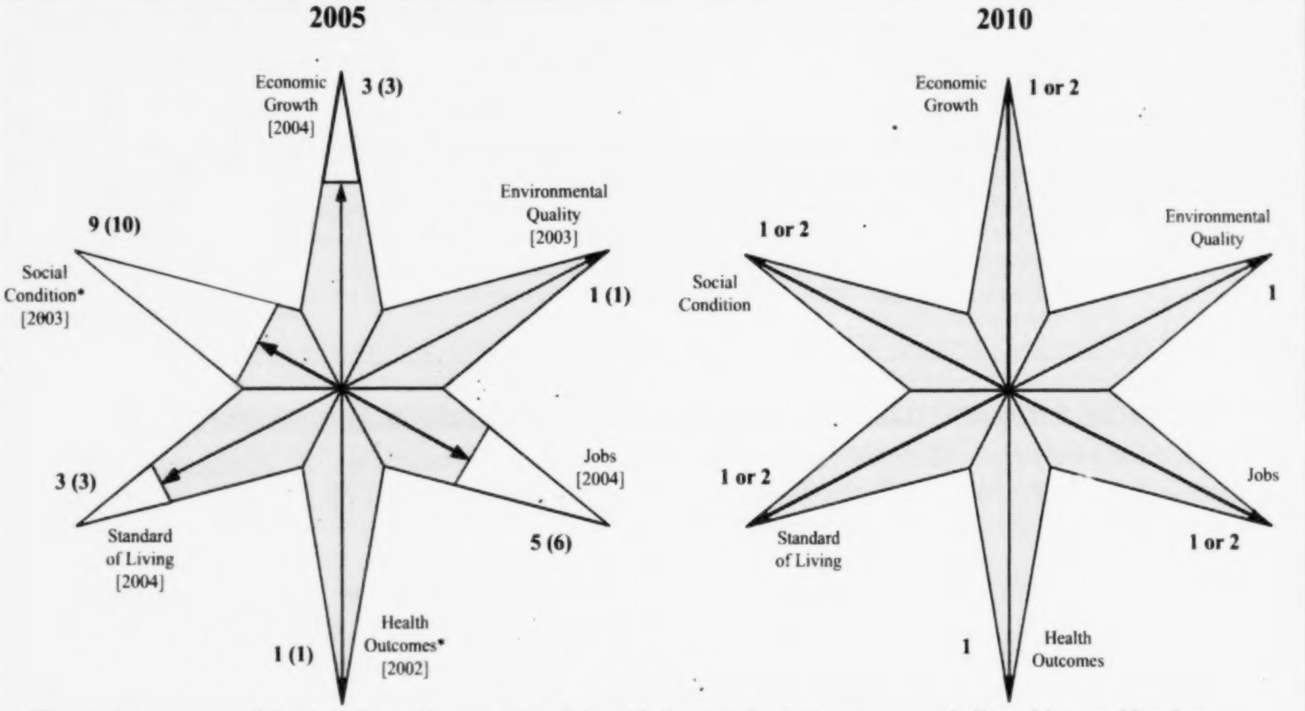
- Make BC a leader in Canada for economy, innovation and education by 2010; and,
- Make BC a leader in Canada on environment, health and society by 2010.

Expressing the first goal – economy, innovation and education – in terms of BC navigating towards its "North Star 2010" (i.e. attaining a leadership position within Canada), BC should rank 1st or 2nd on economic growth (annual growth of real GDP per capita), standard of living (after-tax income, or level of real personal disposable income per capita), and jobs (employment to population ratio, ages 15-64).

Turning to the second goal – environment, health and society – BC should rank 1st for environmental quality, 1st for health outcomes and 1st or 2nd for social condition. These benchmarks – particularly for economy, innovation and education – remain stretch objectives for BC, but the Progress Board believes they are achievable.

British Columbia ranked 3rd in 2004 for economic growth, 3rd for standard of living, 5th on jobs, 1st on environmental quality, 1st on health outcomes, and 9th on social condition. British Columbia's economic performance relative to the rest of the country has shown general improvement between the first annual benchmarking report and this - the fifth - annual report. Relative to the rest of Canada, British Columbia is strong for environmental and health outcomes, economic growth (real GDP per capita) and overall standard of living (after-tax income). British Columbia's performance on the jobs measure (the employment rate) is middling, while the province ranks weak on social condition. The latest North Star rankings for BC are indicated in the shaded areas of the 2005 star outlined below.

North Star - BC in 2005 and 2010


2005
Economic Growth [2004]
3 (3)
Environmental Quality [2003]
1 (1)
Jobs [2004]
5 (6)
Health Outcomes* [2002]
1 (1)
Standard of Living [2004]
3 (3)
Social Condition* [2003]
9 (10)
2010
Economic Growth
1 or 2
Environmental Quality
1
Jobs
1 or 2
Health Outcomes
1
Standard of Living
1 or 2
Social Condition
1 or 2

The most recent year of data is indicated in square brackets with the rank for the previous year indicated in round brackets.
Note: *Presented as an index starting in 2005. See the main body of the report for full details.

Current Results: External Performance Review

The Board reports on six core targets related to two overall goals for British Columbia. Twenty-six additional performance indicators, and a number of supplemental indicators and topic boxes shed further light on BC's economic and social performance, and some of the steps necessary to reach the Progress Board's 2010 North Star leadership benchmarks. The report also contains an extensive array of international and supplemental benchmarking and special topics to round out and provide further exposition of the Progress Board's "Core" Benchmarking Framework.

Core Target 1: Economic Growth (Growth of Real GDP per Capita) – In 2004, BC ranked fourth among the provinces in level of real GDP per capita and third for the growth of real GDP per capita (2.8%, versus an average of 2.0% for all provinces). Over the ten-year period 1995-2004, BC was last in the country for annual average improvement on this basic performance measure. Importantly, revised data show that BC placed above the national average growth rate of real GDP per capita in 2002 for the first time since 1993 and that growth remained above average for 2003 and 2004.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010.

Core Target 2: Standard of Living (Real Personal Disposable Income per Capita) – In 2004, BC had the third highest level of real personal disposable income per capita in Canada, at $20,182 per person ($1997), below the Canadian average of $20,762 per person ($1997). Among the provinces, BC ranked sixth in improvement from 2003 to 2004, and it was the least successful in raising real personal disposable incomes on average between 1995 and 2004.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010.

Core Target 3: Jobs (Employment Rate - For Those Aged 15 – 64) – In 2004, BC ranked fifth in Canada with an employment rate of 70.9% among those aged 15 to 64, while the national average was 72.6%. Among the provinces, BC was fourth in improving its record between 2003 and 2004. Over the decade 1995 to 2004, BC posted no change in the employment rate on an average annual basis while all the other provinces posted increases.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the employment rate among those aged 15 to 64 by 2010.

Economy, Innovation and Education – Inter-Provincial Summary Findings

The three core target indicators used to measure economic performance are the growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, the level of real personal disposable income per capita and the employment rate (for those aged 15 to 64).

British Columbia's position on the core economic targets and performance indicators ranges from strong to weak. A top three "by province" rank for the most recent year of data available is listed as strong performance. Ranks of four through seven are listed as middling performance and a bottom three rank warrants a weak performance designation.

British Columbia's overall position on the Economy, Innovation and Education core target and performance indicators as conveyed in this benchmarking report is middling to strong. Of the sixteen indicators, nine are in the strong category, six are in the middling category and one is listed as weak. Six of the indicators (as designated with the ↑ in the following table) show improvement. Three of the indicators (as designated with the ↓ in the following table) show a decline in rank. The other seven indicators show no change in rank.

Economy, Innovation and Education Performance Rank (and last year's rank)					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-3/10)	Middling (4-7/10)	Weak (8-10/10)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2004	**3 (3)**		
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2004	**3 (3)**		
CT3	**Jobs**	2004		**5 (6) ↑**	
PI1	Real Average Hourly Wage	2004	**2 (2)**		
PI2	Productivity	2004		**6 (5) ↓**	
PI3	Total Exports per Capita	2004			**8 (8)**
PI4	Taxpayer-Supported Debt	2004/05	**2 (3) ↑**		
PI5	Per Capita Tax Burden	2004/05		**6 (5) ↓**	
PI6	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	2005	**2 (2)**		
PI7	Provincial Surplus/(Deficit)	2004/05	**2 (7) ↑**		
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2004/05	**2 (2)**		
PI9	Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004	**3 (5) ↑**		
PI10	Secondary School Graduates	2003		**6 (8) ↑**	
PI11	University Completion	2004	**2 (2)**		
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2002		**4 (5) ↑**	
PI13	Natural and Applied Science and Rel. Occ.	2004		**5 (4) ↓**	
Sub-Total			**9**	**6**	**1**

Strong Position

- British Columbia posted the smallest *growth* in real GDP per capita between 1995 and 2004, but recorded the third highest *growth* between 2003 and 2004 among the provinces. British Columbia's annual *growth* rate of real GDP per capita was ahead of the national average in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The last time BC was ahead of the average - prior to 2002 - was 1993. In 2004, BC's *level* of real GDP per capita was fourth among provinces at $33,129, versus the Canadian average of $35,167.
- In 2004, British Columbia had the third highest real personal disposable income per capita in Canada at $20,182, up $273 (1.4%) from 2003. In 1995, BC's real personal disposable income per capita was $530 above the Canadian average of $18,299. British Columbia remained above the national average until 1998, when it began to fall behind. In 1998, BC was $145 below the average. In 2004 it was $580 below the national average.
- In 1995, British Columbia ranked first in Canada with a real average hourly wage of $16.44. In 2004, British Columbia ranked second with a real average hourly wage of $15.88, behind Ontario at $16.18 and ahead of Alberta at $15.35.
- In 2004/05, British Columbia posted the second lowest taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP at 18.2%, behind Alberta which has eliminated its debt and ahead

of Manitoba at 19.0%. As of March 31, 2005, British Columbia's taxpayer-supported debt was $28.6 billion, or 79% of the province's total debt burden. The remaining 21%, or $7.2 billion, of BC's public debt is self-supported debt incurred by commercial Crown corporations and agencies that carry and repay it on their own.

- In 2005, BC's top marginal personal tax rate stands at 43.7%, second lowest in the country behind Alberta at a rate of 39.0%. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest 2005 rate at 48.6%. From 1994 to 1998, BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada at 54.2%. The gap between BC and Alberta's rates narrowed from 8.1 percentage points in 1995 to 4.7 percentage points in 2002, where it remains.
- In 1995/96, BC had a deficit equivalent to 0.3% of GDP. The all province average in 1995/96 was a deficit of 1.5% of GDP. BC ran successive budget deficits between 1995/96 and 1998/99, before posting a surplus in fiscal years 1999/00 and 2000/01 buoyed by sharp (and temporary) "spikes" in electricity and natural gas revenues. These two surplus years were followed by three more years of deficits. British Columbia posted the second largest surplus as a percent of GDP among the provinces in 2004/05.
- From 1995/96 to 2004/05, BC posted an annual average decrease of 0.2 people per 1,000 population. BC had a positive flow of migrants in 1995/96 and 1996/97 and again in 2003/04 and 2004/05, but experienced negative flows from 1997/98 through 2002/03. Alberta led Canada with an average annual increase of 7.2 people per 1,000 population over the 1995/96 to 2004/05 period.
- In 2004, business gross fixed capital formation was equal to 19.4% of BC's GDP, above the Canadian average of 18.5%. British Columbia ranked fourth for growth in this important measure between 2003 and 2004 behind Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Manitoba. Although BC's rank on this indicator moved to the strong category from middling since the last report, a distinction must be made between total investment and non-residential investment. In 2004, non-residential business investment was equal to 11.1% of BC's GDP, below the Canadian average of 12.6%. Between 2003 and 2004, BC saw an increase of 3.5% in non-residential business investment as a percent of GDP, which earned a fourth place rank. Canada saw an increase of 3.2% between 2003 and 2004.
- In 1995, 17.9% of BC's population had completed a university education, the second highest proportion in Canada. This compared with Alberta at 17.8%, Ontario at 20.5%, and the Canadian average of 18.2%. In 2004, 22.6% of BC's population had completed a university education, second behind Ontario at 26.7% and ahead of Quebec (21.9%) and Nova Scotia (21.3%). The Canadian average in 2004 was 23.3%.

Middling Position

- From 1995 to 2004, BC consistently stayed in the mid-range for the employment rate in Canada. In 2004, BC lagged behind the leading provinces with an employment rate of 70.9%, placing it fifth overall in Canada. Until 1998, BC had an above average employment rate within Canada, but it has lagged since. However, the gap shrank in 2003 for the first time since 1994 and shrank again in 2004, due to robust year-over-year job growth.
- In 2004, British Columbia ranked sixth in Canada on productivity (real GDP per hour worked in the business sector). Newfoundland and Labrador (41.0%) and Saskatchewan (23.5%) saw the largest percentage increases in productivity between 1995 and 2004; BC's increase for this time period was 12.1%, ahead of Alberta at 6.8 percent and Prince Edward Island at 2.6 percent.
- BC posted the sixth lowest consolidated provincial and local government tax burden in Canada at $5,462 in 2004/05. From 1995/96 onward, BC experienced a 12.8% increase in its consolidated provincial and local tax burden, the smallest increase in the country. Alberta usually has had a lower consolidated provincial and local tax burden than BC; in 2003/04 and 2004/05 they were less than $30 apart. From 1995/96 to 2004/05, BC saw the per capita consolidated provincial and local government tax burden rise by $619. In comparison, Alberta recorded an increase of $1,346 and Ontario posted an increase of $1,307.
- In 1994, BC had the second lowest number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 population aged 18 years, at 638; the Canadian average was 713. By 2003, the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 18 year olds in BC had grown by 19.5% to 762, the largest increase in Canada. Overall, BC's rank increased to sixth place in 2003.
- In 2002, spending on research and development as a percent of GDP in BC (1.33%) trailed Quebec (2.67%), Ontario (2.24%) and Nova Scotia (1.37%). Over the period 1993 to 2002, eight provinces saw their ratio of R&D spending to GDP increase. The largest increases were in British Columbia (37.0%), Quebec (31.1%) and Prince Edward Island (20.3%). In 2002, $6.5 billion was expended on R&D in Quebec, compared to $1.8 billion in BC and $1.6 billion in Alberta. Ontario led the way with $10.7 billion.
- British Columbia's proportion of scientists and engineers to total employment grew in five of the ten years between 1995 and 2004. The proportion of BC's total employment consisting of scientists and engineers was 5.8% in 2004, up from 5.1% in 1995. This marked the smallest increase in Canada over this period. For 2003, BC placed fifth among the provinces.

Weak Position

- In 1995, BC posted total exports per capita of $12,520. By 2004, BC's exports per capita had climbed to $15,553, giving it eighth rank among Canadian provinces.

Between 1995 and 2004, BC's per capita exports increased by an annual average rate of 2.5%. This rate of growth was the lowest in Canada. Ontario's per capita exports rose at an annual average rate of 3.6% between 1995 and 2004. In 2004, Ontario had the highest per capita exports in Canada at $25,968.

Environment, Health and Society – Inter-Provincial Summary Findings

British Columbia has a solid overall record on the various environment, health and society core targets and performance indicators. In this broad area, the three core target indices chosen by the Progress Board are environmental quality, health outcomes, and social condition.

Core Target 4: Environmental Quality – BC currently ranks first in Canada for overall environmental quality based on an average of its performance rankings for urban air quality, wastewater treatment, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas.
Overarching Goal: Maintain 1st position in Canada for environmental quality through 2010.

Core Target 5: Health Outcomes – In 2002, BC was first in Canada in health outcomes based on an average of its performance rankings for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost.
Overarching Goal: Maintain 1st position in Canada for health outcomes through 2010.

Core Target 6: Social Condition – In 2003, BC ranked ninth in social condition based on an average of its performance rankings for the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), the low birth weight rate, the personal and property crime rate, the percent of the population on income assistance, and the percent of total unemployment designated as long-term.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd position for social condition in Canada by 2010.

British Columbia's position on the environment, health and society core targets and performance indicators ranges from strong to weak. A top three rank for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of four through seven are viewed as middling and a bottom three rank warrants a weak performance designation.

British Columbia's overall position on the Environment, Health and Society core targets and performance indicators included in this benchmarking report is strong. Of the sixteen indicators, ten are in the strong category, two are in the middling category and four are listed as weak. However, the indicators with weak performance are all associated with social condition. One indicator (as designated with the ↓ in the following table) shows a decline in rank. Four indicators (as designated with the ↑ in the following table) show an improvement in rank. The other eleven indicators show no change.

Environment, Health and Society Performance Rank (and last year's rank)					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-3/10)	Middling (4-7/10)	Weak (8-10/10)
CT4	**Environmental Quality**	2003	**1 (1)**		
CT5	**Health Outcomes**	2002	**1 (1)**		
CT6	**Social Condition**	2003			**9 (10) ↑**
PI14	Air Quality	2003	**3 (3)**		
PI15	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2003	**3 (3)**		
PI16	Protected Areas	2003	**1 (1)**		
PI17	Life Expectancy at Birth	2003/04	**1 (1)**		
PI18	Cancer Mortality	2002	**1 (1)**		
PI19	Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2002	**2 (2)**		
PI20	Infant Mortality	2002		**5 (1)↓**	
PI21	Potential Years of Life Lost	2002	**1 (2) ↑**		
PI22	Low Income Cut-Offs	2003			**10 (10)**
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2003	**3 (5) ↑**		
PI24	Personal and Property Crime	2004			**9 (9)**
PI25	Income Assistance	2003		**5 (5)**	
PI26	Long-Term Unemployment	2003			**8 (10)↑**
Sub-Total			**10**	**2**	**4**

Strong Position

- For environmental quality, BC ranks first in Canada based on an average of its performance rankings on urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas.
- British Columbia had the best health outcome performance among the provinces over the entire 1994 through 2003 period. For the most recent data available, BC had the top rank for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality and potential years of life lost, a second-place rank for cardiovascular disease mortality and a fifth-place rank for infant mortality.
- Vancouver, the province's largest metropolitan center, ranked third among eight Canadian cities in 2003 for having the lowest concentrations of particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), a standard measure of air quality.
- British Columbia has a relatively good record on emissions of greenhouse gases per person. In 2003, it posted the third lowest level in Canada at 15.3 tonnes, almost one-third below the national average of 23.4 tonnes. Over the period 1994 to 2003, BC ranked second among the provinces in annual average improvement (i.e., in moving toward lower per capita emissions).
- On parks and protected areas, BC leads Canada in the proportion of land officially

set aside for this purpose, at 13.0%, compared to a national average of 8.4% and 12.3% in next-door Alberta.

- BC led the country in life expectancy in 2003/04. Over the 1994/95 to 2003/04 period, BC ranked first in raising life expectancy, reaching 80.7 years by 2003/04, up from 78.5 years in 1994/95.
- In 2002, approximately 159 people per 100,000 died from cancer in BC. This was the lowest rate in Canada, and 12.4% below the Canadian average of 178 people per 100,000. BC saw an 8.6% drop from its 1993 mortality rate of 174; the Canadian average was a decline of 6.8%.
- British Columbia scores well on cardiovascular mortality, with the second-lowest rate in the country in 2002. BC saw a 24.7% drop from its 1993 mortality rate of 240; the Canadian average was a decline of 27.4%.
- British Columbia ranked first in terms of Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL - an indicator of premature death based on current mortality rates) in 2002 with an indicator value of 48.4 years per 1,000 population, ahead of Ontario at 48.8 and Quebec at 52.4. Every province noted a decline in their PYLL rate between 1993 and 2002; British Columbia had the largest decrease.
- On the incidence of low birth weight infants, an internationally recognized indicator of health and social condition, BC ranked third in 2003 and ranked second, on average, between 1994 and 2003.

Middling Position

- British Columbia ranked fifth for the infant mortality rate in 2002 with an indicator value of 4.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, behind Newfoundland and Labrador at 4.5 and ahead of Quebec 4.8. Although BC ranked fifth in 2002, it has the lowest average infant mortality rate among the provinces for the most recent five and ten year periods.
- In 2003, BC ranked fifth in Canada with 4.8% of the population under age 65 in receipt of income assistance. This was slightly below the Canadian average of 5.0%. Manitoba had the lowest ratio at 2.8%, followed by Prince Edward Island at 4.2%. The highest ratio, 7.2%, was in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Weak Position

- British Columbia ranked ninth for social condition in 2003. This is a slight improvement for BC which was in last place in 2002. In 2003, BC had the bottom rank for percentage of families and unattached individuals below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO) and for long-term unemployment, ninth-place rank for personal and property crime, fifth for the percent of the population on income assistance, and third for the low birth weight rate.

- In 2003, BC was last among the provinces on Statistics Canada's low income measure, with 18.7% of families and unattached individuals living below the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) level, higher than the national average of 15.4%.
- In 2004, BC had the country's second-highest combined personal and property crime rate, with the vast majority of reported incidents falling into the property crime category. The crime rate in BC has fallen from 10.0 crimes per 100 people in 1995 to 8.0 crimes per 100 people in 2004, a 20.3% decrease. After three years of increases, crime rates in BC fell by 2.7% between 2003 and 2004.
- In 1995, BC had the third-lowest ratio of long-term unemployed people in the country at 10.6% of the total unemployed population. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest rate at 24.5% and the Canadian average was 16.3%. British Columbia's rate peaked at 14.4% in 1997 then fell to a relative low of 9.9% in 2001. The rate increased in 2002 and 2003 to reach 12.5%, but saw a large drop to 8.9% in 2004.

US State and Key Competitors – Supplemental Information

To provide an indication of how BC compares with US and key Canadian competitors, the report contains a series of supplemental boxes that provide information on seven jurisdictions: BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Washington, Oregon and California. Due to data limitations, state-provincial comparisons are not available for all of the core targets and performance indicators. Similar to Canadian comparisons, BC's performance is grouped into weak, middling, and strong. Since there are only seven jurisdictions a top two ranking for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of three through five are listed as middling performance and a sixth or seventh rank warrants a weak performance designation.

Economy, Innovation and Education

British Columbia did not have any top two rankings on provincial and state comparative economic performance indicators. Three out of five BC ranks were between third and fifth, and the remaining three ranks were sixes and sevens. One indicator (as designated with the ↓ in the following table) shows improvement. The other six indicators show no change in rank.

Middling Position

- BC placed fourth for the growth of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2004. BC posted the weakest annual average performance between 1995 and 2004 on this indicator.
- From 1994 through 2000 BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate, but BC's rank has since improved to third position (2005).
- BC had a downward trend in net inter-provincial migration from the 1992 peak

Supplemental US Comparisons: Economy, Innovation and Education

			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-2/7)	Middling (3-5/7)	Weak (6-7/7)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2004		**4 (2) ↓**	
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2004			**6 (6)**
CT3	**Jobs**	2004			**6 (6)**
PI6	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	2005		**3 (3)**	
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial (State) Migration	2004		**3 (3)**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2002			**6 (6)**
Sub-Total			**0**	**3**	**3**

Note: *Due to US data methodology revisions, updates for per capita tax burden and surplus / (deficit) as a percent of GDP are not available; updates are expected for the 2006 Report.

of 1.16% of population to a trough of negative 0.36% in 1998 and 1999. British Columbia ranked third for net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration in 2003 and 2004, a significant improvement from sixth in 2002 and seventh in 2001.

Weak Position

- BC ranked sixth on real personal disposable income per capita in 2004. The three states clearly dominate this indicator. The gap in real personal disposable income per capita between BC and the states reviewed ranges from $7,325 (Oregon) to $12,344 (Washington State).
- BC ranked sixth on the employment rate in 2004. BC's employment rate growth has been ranked first or second in the last three years.
- Spending on research and development as a percent of GDP is relatively low in BC; it ranked sixth in 2002.

Environment, Health and Society

Similar to the province-only comparisons, British Columbia performed generally better on environment, health and society indicators than on measures of economic, innovation and education performance. Of the three provincial-state comparisons, BC had two strong rankings and one weak one.

Strong Position

- Among the major cities in each jurisdiction considered, BC had the best air quality in 2003. Vancouver had the lowest annual mean concentration of fine particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in its air in 2003; Los Angeles had the highest. Vancouver's air quality deteriorated between 2001 and 2002 but improved in 2003.
- BC had the lowest incidence of low birth weight infants of the seven jurisdictions

Supplemental US Comparisons: Environment, Health and Society					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-2/7)	Middling (3-5/7)	Weak (6-7/7)
PI14	Air Quality	2003	**1 (1)**		
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2003	**1 (1)**		
PI24	Personal and Property Crime Rates	2004			**7 (7)**
Sub-Total			**2**	**0**	**1**

reviewed. In fact, between 1994 and 2003, BC's peak low birth weight ratio was below the lowest rates seen in most jurisdictions.

Weak Position

- BC not only has the second-highest per capita combined personal and property crime rate in Canada, it also has a higher rate than those found in Washington, Oregon, and California, earning it a seventh place rank on the personal and property crime rate indicator.

North American Comparisons – Supplemental Information

Where data are available, comparisons for all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, the Canadian provinces, the US states and the District of Columbia are included. Comparisons are presented for two core targets and four performance indicators. The classification categories range from first place to twentieth for strong, twenty-first to fortieth for middling, and forty-first to sixty-first for weak.

Strong Position

- Consistent with strong performance in other comparisons, British Columbia ranked third in North America in 2003 for the basic health and social condition indicator low birth weight infants relative to all live births. Over the period 1994 through 2003, BC had an average of 5.2% of all live births classified as low birth weight, behind only Prince Edward Island at 4.9%.

Middling Position

- Reflecting renewed migration, British Columbia placed twenty-second in North America for net inter-provincial (state) migrants as a percent of the population in 2004 with a migration rate of 0.2% compared to first place Nevada with a net gain of 2.9% and last place District of Columbia with a net loss of 1.7% of population.
- British Columbia ranked thirty-eighth on research and development spending as a percent of GDP in 2002, well behind first place New Mexico at 8.8% and Massachusetts at 5.0%, but BC's 1.3% was more than three times that of last place South Dakota at 0.4%.

Supplemental North American Comparisons					
Economy, Innovation and Education					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-20/61)	Middling (21-40/61)	Weak (40-61/61)
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2004			**54**
CT3	**Jobs**	2004			**45**
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial (State) Migration	2004		**22**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2002		**38**	
Environment, Health and Society					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-20/61)	Middling (21-40/61)	Weak (40-61/61)
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2003	**2**		
PI24	Personal and Property Crime Rates	2004			**61**
Sub-Total			**1**	**2**	**3**

Weak Position

- The broad North American comparison of real personal disposable (PDI) income per capita confirms that the provinces are not in the same league as the states. Alberta, the top ranked province at fifty-first with a real PDI of $23,652 is slightly above the bottom ranked state of Mississippi at $23,384. British Columbia ranked fifty-fourth with a real PDI per capita of $20,182 in 2004.
- Using the US definition of employment rate, namely employment to population for those aged fifteen and older (sixteen and older for the states), BC ranked forty-fifth with a rate of 60.8% in 2004. The top ranked jurisdiction was Minnesota at 71.4% and Newfoundland & Labrador earned the bottom rank with a 50.1% employment rate.
- On a comparable set of crime categories, which is a subset of the inclusive personal and property crime categories used for the inter-provincial comparison, BC ranked last on the crime rate in 2004. British Columbia's property crime rate was sixty-first at 6,501 incidents per 100,000 population, above Saskatchewan at 6,055, Manitoba at 5,870 and the worst ranked US jurisdiction, Arizona at 5,845. British Columbia's personal crime rate was twenty-fifth at 287 incidents per 100,000 population, much closer to top ranked North Dakota at 79 incidents than bottom ranked District of Columbia at 1,371.

International Comparisons – Supplemental Information

To provide a sense of how BC compares with international jurisdictions, the report contains a series of supplemental indicators that examine BC, Canada and the twenty-nine other member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Due to data limitations, a comparison is not available for all of the core targets and performance indicators. Similar to other comparisons contained elsewhere within this report, BC's performance is grouped into strong, middling, and weak. Since there are thirty-one jurisdictions a top ten ranking for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of eleven through twenty are listed as middling performance and twenty-first through thirty-first ranks warrant a weak performance designation.

Economy, Innovation and Education

All five of British Columbia's ranks fell between eleventh and twentieth, earning them middling designations.

Supplemental International Comparisons: Economy, Innovation and Education					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-10/31)	Middling (11-20/31)	Weak (21-31/31)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2003		**16**	
CT3	**Jobs**	2004		**11**	
PI3	Exports	2003		**17**	
PI9	Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004		**14**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2002		**19**	
Sub-Total			**0**	**5**	**0**

Middling Position

- British Columbia is a middling performer on real GDP per capita growth in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked sixteenth out of thirty-one jurisdictions for growth between 2002 and 2003 and twenty-seventh for average annual growth between 1984 and 2003 as well as between 1994 and 2003. In 2003, BC ranked seventeenth on the level of real per capita GDP among OECD jurisdictions.
- British Columbia has relatively high employment when compared to OECD countries. In 2004, BC ranked eleventh out of thirty-one jurisdictions with an employment to population ratio (ages 15-64) of 70.9%. British Columbia's ratio was below top ranked Iceland (82.8%) and well above bottom ranked Turkey (46.1%). British Columbia ranked eleventh for the average ratio over the period 1995 through 2004.
- For international exports of goods and services, British Columbia ranked in the middle of the pack (17th) of OECD jurisdictions in 2003. Canada performed better, earning the tenth place rank. Ireland earned second place with per capita exports three and a half times those seen in BC.
- British Columbia's performance on total gross fixed capital formation as a percent

of GDP when compared to OECD countries is middling. In 2004, BC's ratio of 20.5% earned it a rank of fourteenth out of the twenty-eight jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1998 through 2004, BC averaged a ratio of 19.1% which resulted in a rank of twenty-seventh (of twenty-nine).

- British Columbia registers middling performance on public and private research and development (R&D) as a percent of GDP in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked nineteenth out of thirty-one jurisdictions for R&D spending in 2002; Canada ranked thirteenth. Average R&D expenditures as a percent of GDP in BC were 1.10% between 1993 and 2002, compared to 3.60% for number one ranked Sweden and 0.34% for last place Mexico.

Environment, Health and Society

Three of British Columbia's ranks were in the top ten, earning strong designations. The other indicator in this section earned a weak designation.

Supplemental International Comparisons: Environment, Health and Society

			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent / Period	Strong (1-10/31)	Middling (11-20/31)	Weak (21-31/31)
PI15	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2002			**21**
PI17	Life Expectancy at Birth	2003	**2**		
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	1994 - 2003*	**8**		
PI26	Long-Term Unemployment	2004	**3**		
Total			**3**	**0**	**1**

Note: *A ten year average is used to minimize the effect of annual fluctuations on ranks.

Strong Position

- British Columbia performs well on life expectancy at birth in relation to OECD countries. According to the most recent data available, BC ranked second with a life expectancy at birth of 80.7 years, behind first place Japan at 81.8 years. Canada ranked ninth in the OECD with an average life expectancy at birth of 79.5 years.
- British Columbia performs well on the low birth weight rate in relation to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked eighth out of thirty-one jurisdictions with an average low birth weight rate of 5.2% over 1994 - 2003. Korea ranked first with a low weight birth rate of 3.5%, followed by Iceland (3.9%), Finland (4.2%), Sweden (4.3%), and Ireland (4.8%). Canada ranked tenth in the OECD with a low birth weight rate of 5.7%. Note that a ten year average is used for this indicator to minimize the effect of annual fluctuations on ranks.
- In 2004, British Columbia ranked 3rd compared to OECD countries on the long-

term unemployment rate although its rate (8.9%) was much higher than that in Korea or Mexico, which tied for 1st and 2nd ranks with a rate of 1.1 percent. British Columbia saw a significant improvement from its 7th ranked rate of 12.5% in 2003.

Weak Position

- British Columbia does not perform well on greenhouse gas emissions per capita in relation to OECD countries, in contrast to its strong performance relative to other Canadian provinces. In 2002, BC ranked twenty-first of twenty-eight jurisdictions with per capita emissions of 16.4 tonnes, ahead of twenty-fifth place Canada.

Special Topics – Supplemental Information

In addition to the wealth of information contained in the core target and performance indicators, special topics related to the benchmarks are included at various points throughout the report. As in previous years, some Topic Boxes have been retained and updated and others removed. Topic Boxes have been removed because: there are no new data available, there is no new research to report on, or other topics were deemed to be of higher priority this year. The Appendix section entitled "Topic Boxes That Have Been Removed" lists these boxes and provides links to the Progress Board website. Topic Boxes will be cycled in and out of subsequent reports as new information and data updates become available.

Special Topics Related to Economy, Innovation and Education

Productivity Growth and Income (page 33)

Productivity growth is fundamental to increasing the amount individuals have to spend or save and, therefore, each individual's material standard of living. It also provides a sustainable source of economic growth. Unfortunately, productivity growth in both Canada and BC has been stagnant for the past few years, especially when compared to emerging economies like China and India. Renewed focus needs to be placed on stimulating productivity growth to ensure high standards of living in BC in the future.

Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth (page 34)

Transportation and communication infrastructure are essential to increasing productivity levels and stimulating economic growth. Infrastructure increases the mobility of production inputs, including information, resources, and workers. It also facilitates delivery of products and services to final markets, enhancing "market connectivity." However, the high cost of and high demand for infrastructure improvements requires complex value assessments – comparing direct and indirect economic growth benefits and total costs – to inform public infrastructure improvement decisions.

Discussion of Employment Measures (page 44)

Employment in BC grew by 2.3 percent between 2003 and 2004 for a third place rank in Canada, and by 1.7 percent per year on average between 1995 and 2004 for a sixth place rank. British Columbia's unemployment rate over the past decade ranged from a high of 8.9 percent in 1998 to a low of 7.2 percent in 2000 and again for 2004.

Historical Comparison of Core Targets 1 through 3 (page 45)
Data from 1971 through 2004 for the first three Core Targets – economic growth, standard of living, and jobs – highlight that BC's economic performance needs to continue to improve to match both the performance of other jurisdictions and its own historical performance. BC fell below the national average growth rate for real GDP per capita in twelve of the last twenty years; however, BC placed ahead of the national average in 2002 and remained there in 2003 and 2004.

Productivity (page 49)
Canada's productivity growth and therefore overall labour productivity have lagged behind the US over the past two decades. Although Canada has had strong economic performance since 1995, our productivity vis-a-vis the US has deteriorated, especially since 2000. In 2004, Canada's business sector productivity was 74 percent of the United States, the lowest since the 1950s; it has been deteriorating compared to other jurisdictions as well. Growing productivity is essential to attracting and retaining increasingly mobile investment and resources.

Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade (page 54)
The real value of imports to and exports from BC grew at above average levels from 2003 to 2004, by 4.9 percent for exports and 6.4 percent for imports. BC continues to be highly trade intense economy that exports the majority of its goods internationally (67.5% of exports). For 2004, BC's top international exports were: Wood Products (32.4%), Pulp and Paper Products (16%), and Energy Products (14.5%).

Business Tax Competitiveness (page 57)
BC and Canada share many of the successful ingredients of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) including a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructure, and export-oriented production. One missing element is a competitive effective corporate tax rate. Influencing this is Canada's high aggregate effective tax rate; second only to China among 36 competitor countries in 2005 and close to three times that of Ireland and six times Singapore. In Canada, BC has the fourth highest rate, 7.0 percentage points higher than Alberta.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates (page 60)
British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is the second lowest of the provinces in 2005, at 43.7 percent, second to Alberta's 39.0 percent. Among the provinces, BC's basic personal amount, the amount of income one can earn without paying income tax, is the third highest at $8,676; Alberta has the highest at $14,523 and Quebec's is $9,330. BC has the third lowest federal/provincial small business income tax rates and third lowest general corporate tax rate for 2005.

Head Offices (page 62)
Corporate head offices provide economic benefits directly, through the hiring and train-

ing of local residents and the use of local business services, and indirectly, through their contribution the local skilled labour force, the local economy as a whole, and activities that support the community. Various government policy decisions – on tax rates, infrastructure investment, and the regulatory environment – have a significant impact on a company's head office location decision. For these reasons, the number of head offices in an area over time can be a useful indicator of the strength of a local economy and its business attractiveness. In 2004, BC had the fourth highest proportion of the largest 500 company head offices among the provinces at 11.6 percent, behind first place Ontario (45.4%), second place Quebec (19.4%) and third place Alberta (14.0%).

Size of Government (page 64)
BC's government spending as a percent of GDP for 2004/05 was the third lowest among the provinces at 25.1 percent, behind Alberta (18.7%) and Ontario (23.5%). Research indicates that the relative size of a country's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness, and increases in the size of government beyond the optimal point may produce little in terms of social progress.

Population Changes in BC (page 68)
Between 1990 and 2005, BC enjoyed the highest growth in overall population of any Canadian province, with growth of 29.3 percent, bettering Alberta (27.9%), Ontario (21.8%) and far above the Canadian average (16.5%). After five years of net outflow of people to other provinces between 1997/98 and 2002/03, net inter-provincial migration to BC once again turned positive in 2003/04 and remained so in 2004/05.

Immigration in BC and Canada (page 69)
Throughout the history of BC, immigration has been a key driver of both population and economic growth. In Canada, the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7% in the 1950s to 18.4% in 2001, and for 2001, 2002 and 2003 the net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (60%) of population growth. Debate surrounding the true economic and social impacts of immigration in BC will increase in the coming years, as demographic shifts necessitate heightened future dependence on immigration as a source of economic growth.

Education and Technology: Access to Computers at School (page 75)
Computer skills are increasingly becoming an essential part of basic K-12 education. A first – and integral – step to gaining computer literacy is the ability to access and use computers at school. Internationally, Canada ranks below the US, Australia, and New Zealand, among others in terms of number of 15-year-old students per computer. Cross-provincially, BC ranks seventh, right at the Canadian average of five students per computer.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Results (page 76)
In 2004/05, 79% of grade four and 77% of grade seven students met or exceeded expectations in reading comprehension, 93% of grade four students and 90% of grade seven students achieved this threshold in writing, and 87% of grade fours, and 83% of grade sevens met or exceeded expectations in numeracy.

Education Spending and Outcomes (page 77)

British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. Using real ($1992) figures, BC's spending was the second-highest in 1996/97 through 1998/99 and 2002/03 and the highest from 1999/00 through 2001/02. As with health care spending and outcomes, a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending levels and performance outcomes.

Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training (page 79)

The proportion of the Canadian population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 14.8 percentage points, from 41.5 percent in 1990 to 56.3 percent in 2004. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC, but BC's proportion (58.1%) was 1.8 percentage points above the national average in 2004. In 2004, 10.6 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.5 percent.

Canada and US Comparative University Completion (page 80)

In 2000, 17.7% of Canadians and 25.0% of Americans (25 years and older) held a bachelor degree or higher. By 2004, the Canadian ratio had increased to 19.8% and the US ratio to 27.0%, narrowing the US-Canada gap by 4.8%. Among provinces and states, British Columbia ranked 48th with a university completion rate of 19.9%, up from 18.1% in 2000. BC and Ontario (which earned the 42nd rank with a 22.6% rate) were the only Canadian provinces with university completion rates higher than any of the US states.

Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization (page 86)

Universities and other post-secondary institutions account for a significant portion of innovation in Canada. In 2002, the higher education sector accounted for 26.7% of Canada's research personnel (33.4% of BC's) and, in 2003, 16% of Canada's Gross Expenditures on Research and Development (GERD). Although universities have always been a source of ideas through research and development, over the past few years Canadian post-secondary institutions have been making large scale advances in commercialization, both by inventing at a greater rate and increasingly commercializing their inventions.

Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide (page 87)

Internet access is growing quickly in Canada. The ability to access the Internet means being able to retrieve large amounts of information and easily access many otherwise inaccessible services. British Columbia, at 70.6% in 2003, had the highest percentage of households connected to the Internet in Canada; the Canadian average was 64.2%. Despite this, an urban/rural connectivity divide currently exists in BC, but is improving.

Productivity and R&D Expenditures (page 89)

Research and development (R&D) creates technological change, which feeds into the innovation process and eventually means new products and services that make businesses more efficient, thereby increasing overall productivity. Results from US studies strongly suggest that R&D spending has a positive influence on productivity with a rate of return that likely exceeds that of conventional investments. Though often separated, public and private R&D

have positive spillover effects on each other, as does foreign R&D on domestic productivity.

High Skill Employment and Innovation (page 91)
One of the most recognized factors considered integral to the innovation process is human capital – the level of skill and education of the workforce. The connection between education and innovation is traditionally linked to professions directly involved in R&D, specifically those in the natural and applied sciences and in particular, engineering. The growing prominence of the knowledge-based economy, however, means an increasingly broad based focus on skill development, education and training.

Special Topics Related to Environment, Health and Society

Additional Environmental Measures (page 97)
The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. To supplement the Progress Board's core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it, a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance. Of 46 monitored bodies, BC's water quality index showed 20 rated as excellent, 7 as good, 7 as fair, 4 as marginal and 8 as poor. In 2002 British Columbians generated 936 kg of non-hazardous solid waste per person, making BC the fourth lowest generator. BC's rate of diversion, the proportion of generated waste which is recycled off-site, was 29% in 2002, second only to Nova Scotia's 30%.

British Columbia and International Protected Areas (page 104)
BC's natural diversity has been a distinct element in the province's unique social, economic, and environmental heritage. BC's natural surroundings provide recreational activities for the province's residents and visitors and form the foundation of our active and healthy society. In total, BC has increased protected areas from 6.1% of the provincial land base in 1992 to 13.0% in 2003, the highest level in the country. The Canadian provincial average is 8.4%.

British Columbia and Species at Risk (page 105)
Living in Canada's most biologically diverse province brings a number of challenges in terms of balancing economic growth, population growth, and human development with the protection of our natural ecosystems. In order to better understand, and thereby protect, the province's numerous species, several provincial and federal organizations identify and track those species at risk or in danger of extinction. Growing numbers of species at risk need to be interpreted with caution, however, and should not be taken as an indication of environmental deterioration.

The New Health Outcomes Index (page 108)
The introduction of the Health Outcomes Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of health indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are: cardiovascular disease mortality; infant mortality; and, potential years of life

lost. With the exception of infant mortality these topics have been covered in previous reports as supplemental information; from this year forward, all three are new performance indicators.

Comparative Wait Times (page 109)
While timely access to treatment is without doubt a significant factor in judging our healthcare system, "wait times" are just one indicator of the relative effectiveness and overall performance of the sector. Despite this, they have become – in the media and in the minds of many Canadians – the most important barometer of the health of the system itself and the measure by which healthcare quality is most frequently judged. Measuring and comparing wait times across jurisdictions remains both complex and challenging.

Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes (page 110)
Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and likely will continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 2004/05 preliminary provincial rankings, BC placed fifth in overall provincial government health care spending per capita at $2,683. Similar to education spending and outcomes, a causal connection between high health care spending and health outcomes should be done with considerable caution.

Health Risk Factors (page 115)
Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest killers in Canada overall and in British Columbia. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use – which are common and controllable. The prevalence of these risk factors in BC is low relative to other provinces, with 18% of men and 20% of women classified as obese in BC in 2004, and 15% of those 15 and over classified as current smokers.

Preventive Health Care (page 117)
Health care costs consume a significant portion of BC's public revenues – a full 43% of the total provincial budget in 2005/06 at a cost of $11.6 billion. These costs show no sign of diminishing in the near future as BC's demographics shift towards an aging population. Because of their perceived life saving and cost saving benefits, predictive and preventive health care will be of increasing importance as BC and Canada age.

The New Social Condition Index (page 120)
The introduction of the Social Condition Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of social indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are income assistance and long-term unemployment. Income assistance has been addressed in previous reports as a supplemental topic in our regional BC comparisons, but not in province to province comparisons. Long-term unemployment has not been covered in our previous benchmarking reports.

Low Income Incidence Measures (page 122)
The use of Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO) as a benchmark is justifiably criticized due to the relative nature of the measure. Using LICO, it is possible for everyone in society to be better off, yet have no reduction in low income, since relatively speaking the people at the lower end of the spectrum will still be spending a larger portion of their income on the ba-

sics of food, clothing, and shelter. An alternative measure is to estimate the cost of a basket of necessities and keep track of the number of people who cannot afford that basket, called the Market Basket Measure (MBM).

Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia (page 123)

British Columbia has historically had a high Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) ratio based on the percentage of families under the (1992 base) after-tax low income line. Between 1990 and 2003, BC had two eighth place ranks, and four each of seventh, ninth and last place ranks. The low income rate (LIR) gap between in BC is often explained by differences in employment engagement. For example, families in Vancouver were almost twice as likely to have no connection whatsoever to the labour market as families in Toronto (10.2% versus 5.3%). Little or none of the LIR gap was explained by demographic factors such as family size, age, immigrant status, education and enrolment status.

Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres (page 133)

A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police-reported crimes. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data as reported in Canada and the United States. The results show that, consistent with ranks reported for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property crime rate among major Canadian and American cities. While Vancouver has high property crime rates it ranks better on violent crimes, with rates well below those found in all the US cities profiled.

The Underground Economy (page 134)

A portion of BC's economic activity is never recorded in official statistics. Although the existence of the underground economy is widely acknowledged, the fact that it is hidden makes determining its size and economic impact difficult. Estimates of the size of the total underground economy in Canada – both legal and illegal – range from 11.7% to 15.3% of GDP. With a large underground economy, citizens who fully and accurately report income are essentially penalized as tax rates are adjusted upwards to reach desired revenue targets with relatively fewer British Columbians paying for public health, education and infrastructure that is enjoyed by all – including those earning income in the underground economy.

Outline of the Remainder of Volume I

The remainder of this volume is divided into two chapters and a number of appendices.

Chapter II reports the economy, innovation and education benchmarks.

Chapter III reports the environment, health and society benchmarks.

Appendix A lists the Board members, Staff and Advisory Group.

Appendix B provides a discussion of Methodology.

Appendix C is a Glossary of Terms.

Appendix D consists of the data analyzed in this Volume.

II. Economy, Innovation and Education

Goal
Make BC a leader for economy, innovation and education in Canada by 2010.

Targets	
1.	**Economic Growth:** Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010.
2.	**Standard of Living:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010.
3.	**Jobs:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the employment rate among those aged 15 to 64 by 2010.

Performance Indicators	
1.	Real Average Hourly Wage
2.	Productivity
3.	Total Exports
4.	Taxpayer Supported Debt
5.	Tax Burden - Consolidated Provincial and Local
6.	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate
7.	Provincial Surplus/(Deficit)
8.	Net Inter-Provincial Migration
9.	Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation
10.	Secondary School Graduates
11.	University Completion
12.	Research and Development
13.	Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations

Where BC Ranks: Most Recent

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2004	3 (3)	2	1	5	7	6	4	9	8	10
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2004	3 (3)	1	6	5	2	4	8	7	10	9
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2004	5 (6)	1	3	2	4	7	9	8	6	10
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	2004	2 (2)	3	7	6	1	5	8	9	10	4
📈	2. Productivity	2004	6 (5)	1	5	7	2	4	8	9	10	3
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2004	8 (8)	2	3	5	1	6	4	10	9	7
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	2004/05	2 (3)	1	4	3	5	7	6	9	8	10
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2004/05	6 (5)	5	8	7	9	10	2	4	1	3
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2005	2 (2)	1	3	4	5	8	6	9	7	10
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	2004/05	2 (7)	1	3	4	8	7	5	6	9	10
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2004/05	2 (2)	1	10	8	5	3	7	4	6	9
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004	3 (5)	1	5	9	10	8	7	4	6	2
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	2003	6 (8)	10	5	9	8	4	2	3	1	7
📈	11. University Completion	2004	2 (2)	5	7	6	1	3	9	4	8	10
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2002	4 (5)	7	5	6	2	1	9	3	10	8
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	2004	5 (4)	1	10	7	3	2	4	6	9	8
	Arithmetic Average		3.8	2.7	5.3	5.8	4.6	5.3	6.1	6.5	7.4	6.9
	Overall Indicative Rank		2	1	4	6	3	4	7	8	10	9

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2004	4 (2)	3	7	6	5	2	1
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2004	6 (6)	4	5	7	1	3	2
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2004	6 (6)	1	2	7	3	5	4
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2005	3 (3)	2	6	7	1	4	5
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2004	3 (3)	1	6	5	2	4	7
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2002	6 (6)	7	5	3	1	4	2
	Arithmetic Average		4.7	3.0	5.2	5.8	2.2	3.7	3.5
	Overall Indicative Rank		5	2	6	7	1	4	3

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2003	16 (13)	18	13	8	15	12
◎	2. Employment to Population Ratio	2004	11 (11)	9	17	20	7	10
◎	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2003	17 (17)	10	2	18	20	28
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004	14 (16)	16	6	1	28	21
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2002	19 (19)	13	23	7	14	5
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		15.6	11.0	10.4	13.8	16.6	13.4
	Overall Indicative Rank		5	2	1	4	6	3

Note on Tables: An arithmetic average and "overall indicative rank" are included for summary comparison purposes only. Each core target and performance indicator should be viewed independently for comparing British Columbia's overall economic, innovation and education performance relative to other jurisdictions.

Where BC Ranks: One Year Progress

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2003 - 2004	6 (8)	2	1	7	10	5	9	8	3	4
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2003 - 2004	4 (4)	6	7	9	8	5	2	1	10	3
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	2003 - 2004	8 (6)	2	5	3	7	9	10	4	1	6
📈	2. Productivity	2003 - 2004	7 (10)	4	1	3	6	8	5	9	2	10
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2003 - 2004	4 (3)	3	1	6	5	9	8	7	2	10
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	2003/04 - 2004/05	3 (5)	1	2	9	8	4	5	6	7	10
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2003/04 - 2004/05	7 (10)	5	8	9	10	4	1	6	3	2
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2004 - 2005	1 (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	1
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	2003/04 - 2004/05	2 (1)	8	4	5	7	10	6	9	3	1
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2003/04 - 2004/05	6 (1)	1	4	8	5	7	9	2	10	3
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2003 - 2004	4 (4)	9	10	3	8	2	7	6	5	1
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	2002 - 2003	2 (3)	6	5	1	7	10	9	3	8	4
📈	11. University Completion	2003 - 2004	9 (3)	6	2	4	3	5	1	10	8	7
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2001 - 2002	4 (6)	2	3	7	9	5	1	6	10	8
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	2003 - 2004	9 (1)	5	4	2	7	1	3	8	6	10
	Arithmetic Average		5.1	4.1	3.9	4.9	6.8	5.9	5.1	6.2	5.3	5.3
	Overall Indicative Rank		4	2	1	3	10	8	5	9	6	7

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2003 - 2004	6 (6)	2	7	5	1	4	3
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2003 - 2004	2 (1)	4	5	3	1	7	6
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2004 - 2005	1 (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2003 - 2004	4 (1)	1	3	5	2	7	6
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2001 - 2002	2 (5)	1	6	3	4	7	5
	Arithmetic Average		3.0	1.8	4.4	3.4	1.8	5.2	4.2
	Overall Indicative Rank		3	1	6	4	1	7	5

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	2. Employment to Population Ratio	2003 - 2004	12 (4)	15	14	11	18	19
◎	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2002 - 2003	26 (29)	28	31	3	16	7
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2003 - 2004	6 (6)	12	5	26	11	7
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2001 - 2002	9 (8)	21	14	18	11	19
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		13.3	19.0	16.0	14.5	14.0	13.0
	Overall Indicative Rank		2	6	5	4	3	1

Where BC Ranks: Period Progress

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1995 - 2004	10 (10)	9	6	8	7	5	3	2	4	1
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	1995 - 2004	10 (10)	1	2	9	8	4	5	6	7	3
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	1995 - 2004	10 (10)	7	9	8	6	4	2	3	5	1
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	1995 - 2004	7 (6)	5	9	8	6	10	3	4	2	1
📈	2. Productivity	1995 - 2004	8 (8)	9	3	2	4	6	7	5	10	1
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	1995 - 2004	10 (10)	9	6	5	8	7	4	2	3	1
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	1995/96 - 2004/05	9 (9)	1	2	3	6	10	4	7	5	8
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	1995/96 - 2004/05	1 (1)	3	7	5	2	6	4	10	9	8
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	1996 - 2005	1 (1)	3	2	7	4	6	5	10	8	9
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	1995/96 - 2004/05	3 (8)	4	9	6	2	1	8	5	10	7
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	1995/96 - 2004/05	10 (10)	2	7	5	6	4	8	3	9	1
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	1995 - 2004	10 (10)	3	5	4	8	6	2	1	7	9
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	1994 - 2003	1 (3)	7	6	10	8	2	9	3	4	5
📈	11. University Completion	1995 - 2004	7 (1)	10	4	6	5	1	2	8	3	9
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1993 - 2002	3 (3)	8	5	6	4	2	9	7	1	10
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	1995 - 2004	10 (4)	7	3	4	6	5	2	8	1	9
	Arithmetic Average		6.9	5.5	5.3	6.0	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.2
	Overall Indicative Rank		10	6	5	9	8	2	1	4	6	3

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

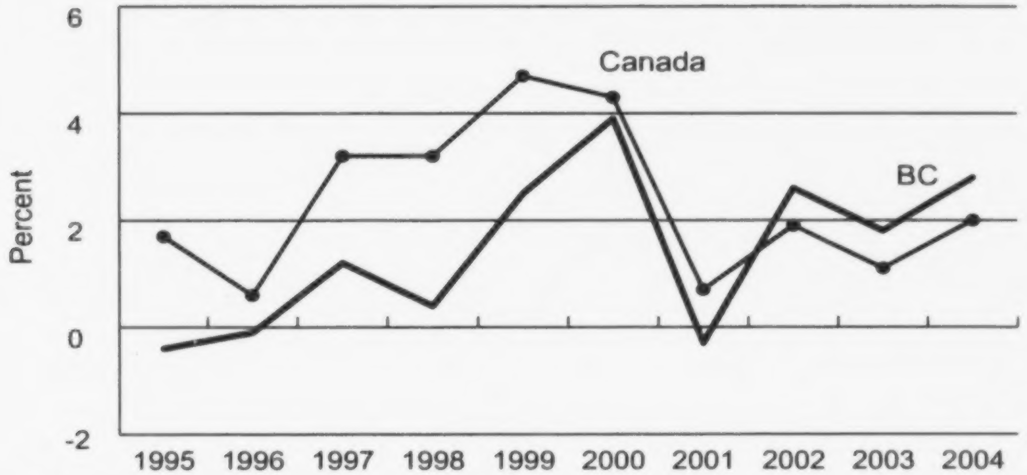
	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1995 - 2004	7 (7)	6	4	3	5	1	2
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	1995 - 2004	7 (7)	1	6	3	2	5	4
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	1995 - 2004	6 (5)	3	2	1	5	7	4
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	1996 - 2005	1 (1)	2	3	7	5	6	4
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	1995 - 2004	6 (5)	2	4	3	5	7	1
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1993 - 2002	3 (4)	6	5	2	4	1	7
	Arithmetic Average		5.0	3.3	4.0	3.2	4.3	4.5	3.7
	Overall Indicative Rank		7	2	4	1	5	6	3

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1994 - 2003	27 (26)	14	1	2	11	18
◎	2. Employment to Population Ratio	1995 - 2004	24 (24)	8	2	22	14	27
◎	3. Total Exports Per Capita	1994 - 2003	29 (25)	13	3	6	27	30
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	1995 - 2004	23 (21)	12	16	26	15	8
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1993 - 2002	10 (10)	13	14	8	27	20
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		22.6	12.0	7.2	12.8	18.8	20.6
	Overall Indicative Rank		6	2	1	3	4	5

Core Target 1 | Economic Growth | Economy, Innovation and Education

Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita, BC and Canada, Annual Percentage Change



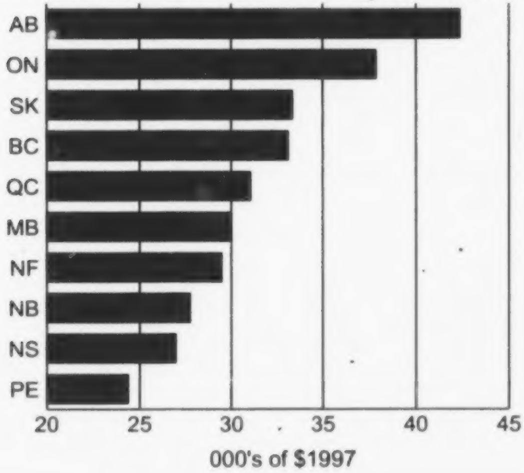
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Economic growth (i.e., the annual change of real GDP per capita) is a key measure of economic prosperity, expressed in terms of the value of output (goods and services produced) per person.

Gross Domestic Product is the value added to the economy by current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents (who may purchase and sell goods and services to British Columbians).

Level of Real GDP Per Capita, 2004



Why it's Important

The growth rate of real GDP per capita is an effective measure of changes in the prosperity of a jurisdiction and its population. Slower growth in real GDP per capita results in lower levels of purchasing power, real personal income, and real wages and salaries. If real GDP per capita increases faster than the population, then the size of the "economic pie" is growing on a per person basis.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 9th*	2002 5th*	2003 3rd*	2004 3rd
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 10th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **10th**

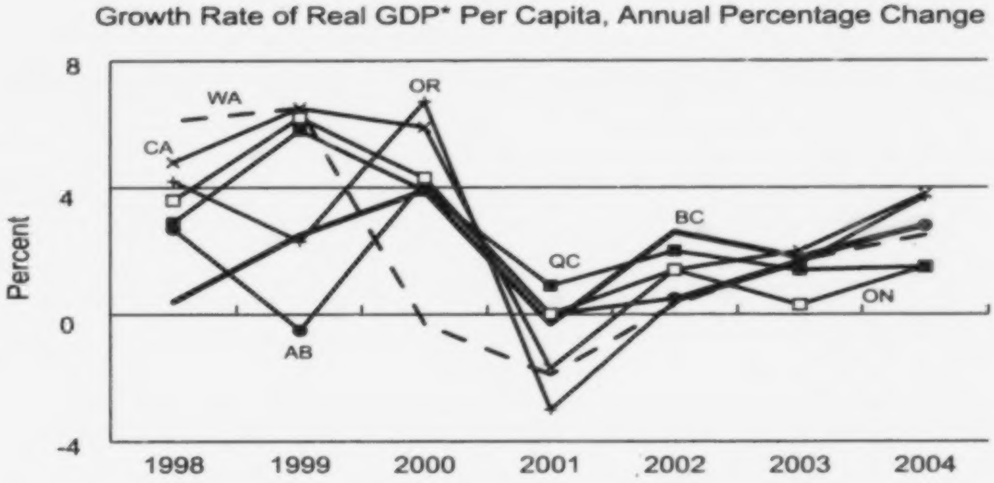
How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia posted the smallest gains in real GDP per capita between 1995 and 2004, but recorded the third highest growth between 2003 and 2004 among the provinces. From 1995 to 2004, BC experienced average annual growth of 1.4%, compared to 1.9% in Alberta, 2.3% in Ontario and 4.9% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2004, BC's level of real GDP per capita was fourth among provinces at $33,129, versus the Canadian average of $35,167. British Columbia's annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was ahead of the national average in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The last time in BC was ahead of the average was 1993.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Economic Growth (Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Description:
This indicator is a measure of the growth rate of goods and services produced per person in a province or state. It is employed as a measure of the relative change in the "standard of living" across geographic areas. Regions with higher growth rates of per capita GDP experience greater improvements in standard of living.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2001 4th	2002 1st	2003 2nd	2004 4th
Period Progress Rank*	1992-2001 7th	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 7th	1995-2004 7th

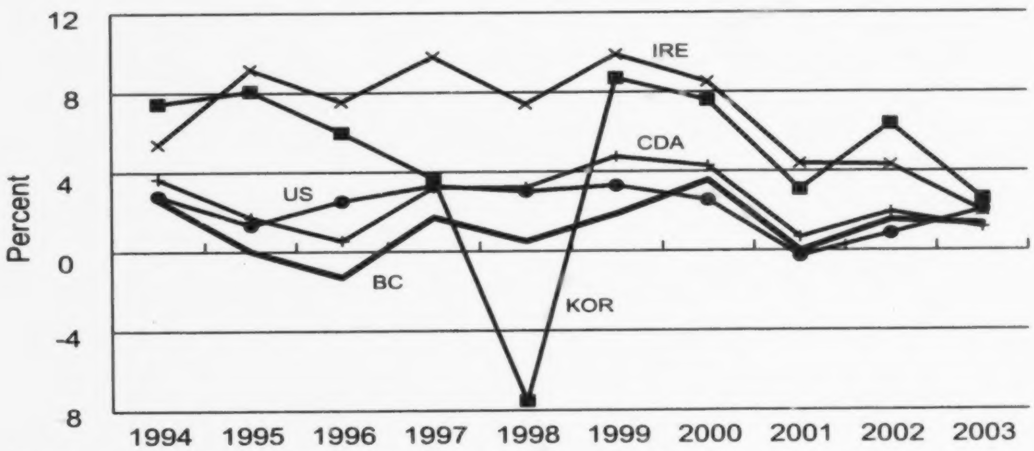
How Does BC Compare?
BC has had strong to middling performance in recent years but posted the weakest overall performance for the decade 1995-2004. Over the period 1998 to 2004, California posted the best average year-to-year growth in real GDP per capita at 3.2%, followed by Quebec at 2.6% and Ontario at 2.5%.

Over the same period, Alberta had the worst performance with average year-to-year growth in real GDP per capita of 1.7%, bettered by British Columbia at 1.9% and Washington at 2.1%.

Note: *There is a discontinuity in the GSP time series at 1997, where the data change from SIC industry definitions to NAICS industry definitions. This data discontinuity may affect both the levels and the growth rates of the GSP estimates. The figure covers 1998-2004 rather than 1995-2004 to reflect only NAICS based data. The period progress ranks use both NAICS and SIC data but the transition year is not included in calculations.

Economic Growth

GDP Growth at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)



Sources: BC Progress Board, BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

This indicator is a measure of the growth rate of goods and services produced per person in a jurisdiction. It is employed as a measure of the relative changes in "standard of living" across geographic areas.

Real GDP per capita (2000 price levels and PPPs - $US)

	Real GDP per capita, 2003	Rank for Real GDP per capita, 2003	Rank for 2002 - 2003 Growth	Average Annual Growth, 1984 - 2003	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1984 - 2003	Average Annual Growth, 1994 - 2003	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1994 - 2003
British Columbia	**26,488**	**17**	**16**	**1.44**	**27**	**1.19**	**27**
Canada	29,102	7	18	1.94	20	2.52	14
Finland	26,974	13	10	2.03	15	3.37	7
Ireland	31,590	4	13	5.28	2	6.84	1
Japan	26,197	18	19	2.03	14	0.84	30
Korea (South)	18,396	23	8	5.98	1	4.60	2
Mexico	8,930	30	25	0.73	31	1.16	28
Netherlands	27,117	12	30	2.02	16	1.96	21
New Zealand	22,017	22	14	1.30	28	2.22	17
Norway	37,235	2	28	2.61	9	2.60	13
Switzerland	29,879	5	29	0.97	30	0.68	31
United Kingdom	26,852	14	15	2.37	10	2.62	11
United States	35,489	3	12	2.21	12	2.15	18
OECD Europe	25,404	n/a	n/a	2.05	n/a	1.89	n/a
OECD Total	22,891	n/a	n/a	1.88	n/a	1.81	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page.

Economic Growth (cont.)

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia does not perform well on long-term real GDP per capita growth in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked 27th out of 31 jurisdictions for average annual growth between 1984 and 2003 and for average annual growth between 1994 and 2003. Average annual per capita growth in BC's real GDP was 1.44% between 1984 and 2003 compared to 5.98% for number one ranked South Korea, 0.73% for last place Mexico, and 1.88% for the OECD as a whole. In 2003, BC ranked 17th on the level of real per capita GDP among OECD countries, and 16th for growth between 2002 and 2003.

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2003 level of real GDP per capita as well as on average annual growth in real GDP per capita. Canada ranked 20th for average annual growth between 1984 and 2003 and 14th between 1994 and 2003. Average annual per capita growth in Canada's real GDP was 1.94% between 1984 and 2003 and 2.52% between 1994 and 2003. Turning to Canada's main trading partner, the **United States** had the third highest level of real GDP per capita in 2003 behind Luxembourg* and Norway. The US ranked 12th for growth in real per capita GDP between 1984 and 2003 and 18th for growth between 1994 and 2003. Between 1984 and 2003, the US economy expanded at an annual average rate of 2.21%; the 1994 to 2003 rate was a slightly lower 2.15%.[i]

Ireland and **South Korea** both exhibited extremely strong growth rates although Ireland's real GDP per capita was over 70% higher than that of South Korea's in 2003. South Korea's real GDP per capita of $18,396 was ranked 23rd in 2003 while Ireland's $31,590 was ranked 4th. Ireland ranked 2nd for growth between 1984 and 2003 with average annual growth of 5.28%, and 1st between 1994 and 2003 with an average annual increase of 6.84%. South Korea had the top rank for GDP expansion between 1984 and 2003 with average annual growth of 5.98% and had the second best rank between 1994 and 2003 with an average annual increase of 4.60%.

Similar to the leading countries, the lagging countries, **Mexico** and **Switzerland**, have divergent levels of real per capita GDP. Mexico's real per capita GDP in 2003 was $8,930, ahead of only Turkey while Switzerland's real GDP per capita was the 5th highest among OECD countries at $29,879. However, both countries have exhibited weak economic growth over the last two decades. Switzerland's economy grew by 0.97% on an annual average basis between 1984 and 2003 to earn it a 29th place rank. Switzerland's growth in real per capita GDP was the worst among OECD countries when one looks at the 1994 through 2003 period. While Mexico also had weak growth it performed better over the 1994 to 2003 period than it did during the 1984 through 1993 period. Between 1984 and 2003, Mexico's real per capita GDP grew by 0.73% on an average annual basis but grew by 1.16% per year over 1994 to 2003.

Notes: The data discussed in this international comparison differ from that presented in the Canada and Canada-US comparisons because different currency and PPP exchange rates are used here. There is also a slight difference in the way the OECD and Statistics Canada report GDP; this difference amounts to 2.1% of BC's GDP, on average, between 1994 and 2003. See Appendix B for full details.

*Luxembourg is not highlighted as the number one jurisdiction because its per capita GDP is distorted by the fact that approximately 30% of its labour force lives outside the country.

NEW

Core Targets 1 & 2 Supplemental Information: Productivity and Income

Productivity and Income

Economic well-being is often discussed in terms of statistical measures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and real personal disposable income. Productivity growth drives both general economic and income growth. For individuals what matters is more basic: their own income, what the government takes in taxes and delivers by way of services in return, and the residual – how much money is left to buy both what one needs and what one wants.

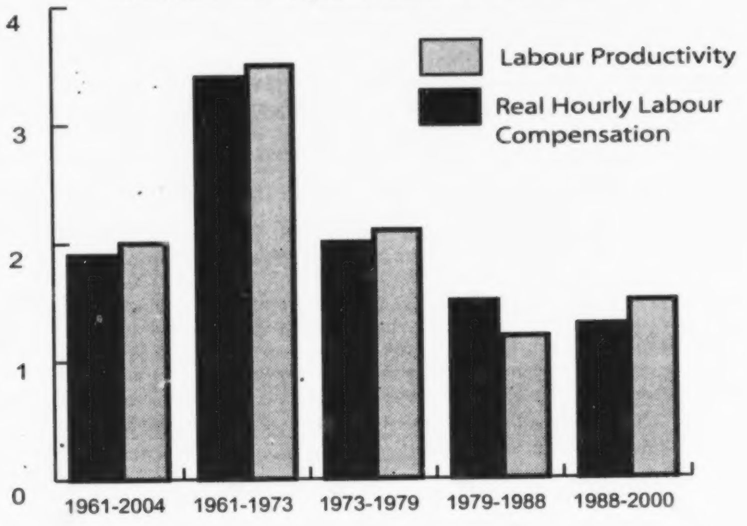
Although many do not make the connection directly, the key to increasing individual material well-being is productivity growth. If an economy can produce more with the same amount of both capital and labour, quantified through increases in GDP per capita, personal incomes and consumption rise on average. In other words, productivity growth is fundamental to increasing the amount an individual has to spend or save.

In an October 2005 report, Statistics Canada assigned 80 percent of the growth in living standards in Canada from 1961 to 2004 to productivity growth. The other 20 percent came from increased 'work effort,' meaning an overall increase in the amount of hours worked in the economy. Productivity gains from increased work effort have a natural limit because there is a point where individuals can't increase their work hours further and employment rates reach as high as can be sustained in the long-run. In contrast, productivity growth is limitless and sustainable. The correlation between growth in labour productivity and growth in real hourly labour compensation can be seen in the chart below.

Unfortunately, productivity levels and productivity growth in Canada and BC relative to other jurisdictions have been lagging in recent years. Canada is 17th out of twenty-three OECD countries in terms of overall productivity, down from 3rd in 1960. Real GDP per hour (labour productivity) in BC is below the national average, and overall growth in productivity in both Canada and BC is stagnant.

If British Columbians want to increase their standard of living for the long term, increasing productivity through more public and private capital investments, new funding for and focus on research, training and academics need to be priorities. As well, favourable tax, immigration, and regulatory policies also must be at the forefront of public policy.

Labour Productivity and Real Hourly Labour Compensation, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Four Decades of Productivity Performance in Canada.

Sources: Statistics Canada (2005), Four Decades of Productivity Performance in Canada, cat. #15-206; TD Economics (2005), Canada's Productivity Challenge; BC Stats (2005), Probing the Productivity Puzzle; The Conference Board of Canada (2005), Performance 2005: Productivity, Employment and Income in the World's Economies.

Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth

Canada's all-government infrastructure shortfall has been estimated at $125 billion for 2003, rising to between $200 and $300 billion over the subsequent 20-25 years. Another recent estimate of only Canada's local government infrastructure shortfall put it at $57 billion in 2002, rising to $110 billion by 2027 in the absence of action. However, there are many recent federal and provincial initiatives across the country aimed at addressing Canada's infrastructure weaknesses.

The cost of infrastructure investments makes selecting the most effective and beneficial projects crucial. Of course, determining which infrastructure investments will be most effective in triggering economic growth and which have the highest return for investments of scarce public funds, is by no means a straightforward process. First, it is important to recognize the difference between the state or value of infrastructure from an economic versus an engineering standpoint. For example, a given roadway in disrepair may be a target for funds from an engineering perspective, but if the road is underutilized and provides little contribution to local industry or business its economic value is marginal.

Traditionally, infrastructure investments have been measured in engineering and maintenance terms, by their quality or state of upkeep, as well as by their ability to improve access and mobility. But as decision-makers increasingly attempt to find better ways to allocate funds this method can be extended one step further to determining whether or not improved access and mobility could influence job creation or business location decisions, improve productivity, enhance access to a potential workforce or other important inputs to the production process, or to increase quality of life in the region – all of which may have positive impacts on economic growth.

Even with an improved understanding of how infrastructure investments should be weighed, there is still no easy way to make such decisions. The process is inherently complex with severe measurement difficulties surrounding assessing the value of both new and existing capital stock, as well as evaluating the future impact on the economy. Added to these complications are the fact that timing and location will also weigh heavily on value calculations – an infrastructure investment that is valuable in one place or at one time is unlikely to have the same value under different circumstances.

Similarly, most infrastructure projects provide *space specific benefits*, with the value of the investment declining with distance from its location, or even having adverse effects on nearby jurisdictions should it displace private investment or change the spatial pattern of business development.

Regardless of these measurement difficulties, asking the right questions while looking at infrastructure investments from the point of view of their economic potential is an important part of ensuring that limited public funds are spent on those projects which will trigger the most economic growth and quality of life benefits for British Columbians.

The table on the following page provides a selection of useful capacity measures for given types of infrastructure, but is by no means exhaustive.

Sources (Infrastructure Statistics):
NetWork BC, April 2005;
Kelowna International Airport, September 2005;
Prince George Airport, August 2005;
Vancouver International Airport Authority, August 2005;
Victoria International Airport, August 2005;
Abbotsford International Airport, September 2005;
Canadian Pacific Railways, April 2005;
Canadian National Railways, September 2005;
Prince Rupert Port Authority, August 2005;
Vancouver Port Authority, August 2005;
GVRD (October 2004), Summary and Results of the 2003 Greater Vancouver Travel Time Survey;
BC Ministry of Transportation, September 2005;
Transport Canada (2004), Transportation in Canada 2004;
Duke Energy Gas Transmission, August 2004.

Sources (Publications): Richard H. Mattoon (2004), Infrastructure and State Economic Development, prepared for Statistics Canada, cat. #11F0024MIE; Mirza and Haider (2003), The State of Infrastructure in Canada: Implications for Infrastructure Planning and Policy, Department of Civil Engineering at McGill University; Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (2002), Critical Condition: Canada's Infrastructure at the Crossroads.

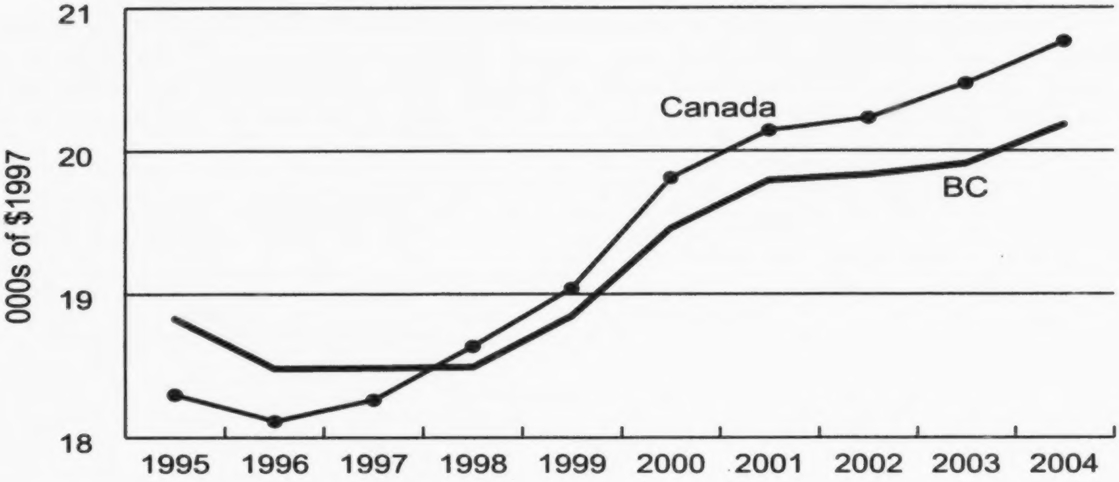
Notes: TEUs=twenty-foot equivalent units; Bcf=billion cubic feet.

Core Target 1 Supplemental Information: Infrastructure

Infrastructure Statistics	
Communications	
Broadband Access	58.7% of BC communities (215 of 361) had broadband services as of April 2005, representing 89% of BC's population.
Airport Facilities	
Kelowna - YLW	**Runway Capacity:** Dropped slightly to 68,776 total aircraft movements in 2004 from 69,802 in 2003. Capacity was higher than usual in 2003 due to forest fire activities. At 100% capacity during peak periods. **Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 81% capacity in 2004 with 863,645 visits, up 3% over 2003.
Prince George - YXS	**Terminal Capacity:** New Transborder and International Arrivals Terminal expansions completed in April 2005. Capable of handling up to 400 passengers per hour with enhanced customs and security features. **Runway Capacity:** Runway is at capacity but currently under utilized for passenger aircraft movements. Currently, runway is lacking capacity to handle the larger cargo market. Phase 3 expansion proposed for 2005 will increase runway length to facilitate larger cargo aircraft.
Vancouver - YVR	**Airside Facility Utilization:** 270,436 runway aircraft movements in 2004 vs. annual runway capacity of over 400,000, 68% utilization rate up from 63% in 2003 and 64% in 2002. Overall utilization reached 81% in 1998/99 pre-rationalization. **Terminal Building Utilization:** 15.7 million passengers vs. 17 million capacity in 2004, 92% utilization up from 84% in 2003 and 88% in 2002. Prior to 2001 downturn, reached 94% utilization.
Victoria - YYJ	**Runway Capacity:** Not currently measured, no foreseen capacity problems. **Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 60% utilization in 2004 with 1.25 million passengers vs. roughly 2 million overall capacity. Departures terminal is currently under expansion and slated for completion in early 2006.
Abbotsford - YXX	**Runway Capacity:** Approximately 56.2% with 149,999 movements in 2004, down 2.5% from 2003. **Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 37% with 372,060 passengers in 2004, down approximately 3% from 2003.
Rail Facilities	
Canadian Pacific Railways	**Rail/ Freight Capacity:** Expansion to the Western Canada Corridor to be completed in the fall should increase capacity by 12 percent or more than 400 freight cars per day.
Canadian National Railways	**Rail Yard & Interchange Capacity:** Access agreements with other rail carriers to improve the orderly flow of rail traffic throughput in BC. Increased train capacity for overseas containers moving between the Port of Vancouver and Montreal and Toronto by more than 20% while boosting capacity for domestic container moves between Toronto and Montreal and major Western Canada centres by more than 10%
Port Facilities	
Prince Rupert Port Authority	**Freight Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 4.4 million tonnes processed in 2004, up from 4.3 million in 2003, 4.5 million in 2002 and 13.0 million in 1998. Phase I construction to be completed at the end of 2006 will increase throughput capacity to 500,000 TEU. Phase II begins in 2004 and will be completed by 2010. Throughput capacity will increase to 2 million TEUs. **Cruise Terminal Capacity:** New Northland Cruise Terminal completed April 2004. Utilization increased to 61,385 in 2004 from 4,500 in 2003, with a capacity of approximately 280,000 passengers.
Vancouver Port Authority	**Container Capacity:** Roughly 97% capacity in 2004 with 1.66 million TEUs, 8% growth over 2003. Facility expansion underway for potential 5.383 million TEUs by 2020. **Cruise Capacity:** Currently at 100% capacity during peak times/weekends with 929,976 revenue passengers in 2004, representing a 3% decrease from 953,376 passengers in 2003.
Roadways	
GVRD	**Congestion:** Congestion is defined by the Regional Congestion Indicator which is described as Average Survey Travel Speed divided by Free-Flow Speed. The 2003 RCI indices show AM peak at 0.70, mid-day at 0.78, PM peak at 0.65, and Saturday mid-day at 0.74. The RCI may be interpreted as the value approaches 1.0, the average speed approaches speeds equal to free-flow (non-congested) speeds. Therefore, the data showing the most "congested" time period is PM peak (RCI=0.65), followed by the AM peak (RCI=0.70), Saturday mid-day (RCI=0.74), and weekday mid-day (RCI=0.78).
Regional BC	**Congestion:** 14.6% of urban vehicle kilometres travelled in congested conditions. Up from 13.4% in 2003 and 13.6% in 2002.
Borders	
BC – US Crossings	**Delay and Queue lengths:** Wait times varied at the Pacific Hwy crossing (#15) with the longest waits during holidays. Pacific Hwy processed $13.68B of the $31.1B value of goods crossing the BC-US border in 2003. Transport Canada estimates 66% of trade movements coming from roads rather than rail or pipelines.
Pipelines	
Duke Energy Gas Transmission	**BC Pipeline & Field Services System deliveries:** The DEGT Pipeline System accounts for 85% of BC's natural gas consumption. Total volume of gas delivered through the system was 652 Bcf in 2004 compared to 638 Bcf in 2003. Of the total throughput in 2004, 49% consisted of deliveries to BC's domestic market.

Core Target 2 Standard of Living Economy, Innovation and Education

Real Personal Disposable Income per capita, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada.

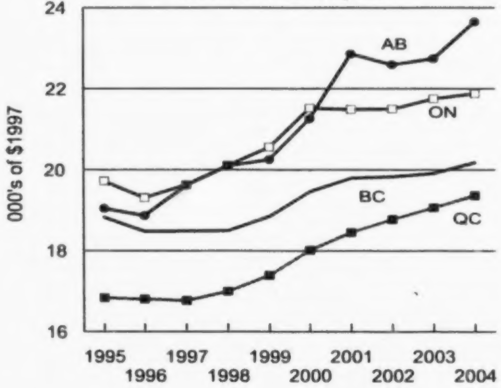
Description

Real personal disposable income per capita represents total income minus certain taxes paid to all levels of government (e.g., income taxes, contributions to social security, etc.) and various fees such as medical insurance premiums, measured in 1997 dollars and expressed on a per person basis. It includes income earned by all residents of the province, regardless of where it was earned.

Why it's Important

Real personal disposable income per capita provides an indication of an individuals' spending power and standard of living.

Provinces - Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 3rd	2002 3rd	2003 3rd	2004 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 6th*	2001-2002 6th*	2002-2003 8th*	2003-2004 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 10th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

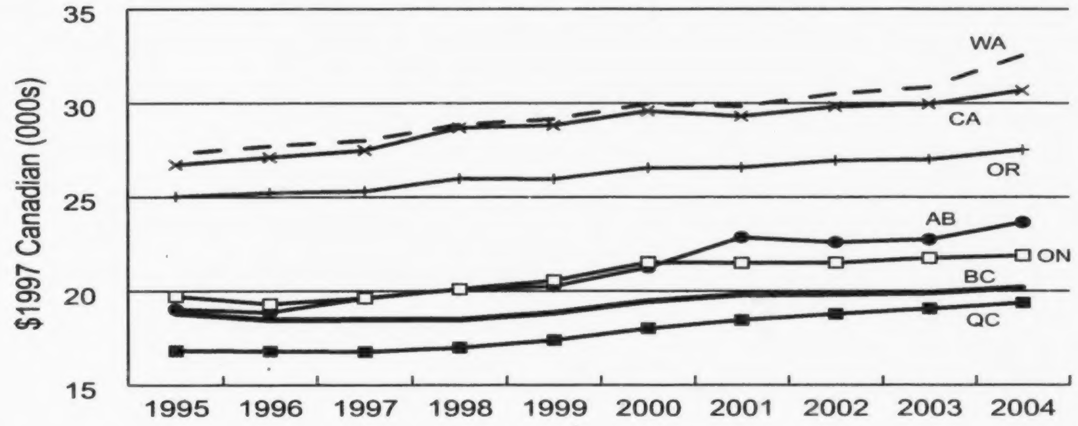
In 2004, British Columbia had the third highest real personal disposable income per capita in Canada at $20,182, up $273 (1.4%) from 2003. Incomes in Alberta were only $216 higher than in BC in 1995, but by 2004 Alberta enjoyed a $3,470 lead over BC. In 1995, BC's real personal disposable income per capita was $530 above the Canadian average of $18,299. British Columbia remained above the national average until 1998, when it began to fall behind. In 1998, BC was $145 below the average and by 2004 it was $580 below the average.

BC had the smallest increase among the provinces in real personal disposable income per capita (7.2%) between 1995 and 2004. Four provinces (Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and Quebec) had growth above 15.0% over this time period.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Standard of Living

Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis: US Census Bureau.

Description:

This indicator is a measure of the amount of income earned from various sources by persons after the payment of direct taxes and social insurance contributions to governments. This measure is adjusted for inflation, so it captures changes in the purchasing power of income over time.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 6th	2002 6th	2003 6th	2004 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 3rd	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 4th	2003-2004 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 7th	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 7th	1995-2004 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked second to last on this indicator in 2004. Of the provinces, Ontario and Alberta generally have had the highest real personal disposable per capita incomes. In 2004, Alberta had the highest real personal disposable income per capita among the provinces at $23,652. Alberta was followed by Ontario at $21,883 and BC at $20,182. British Columbia's real personal disposable income per capita grew by 7.2% from $18,829 in 1995 to $20,182 in 2004. The other jurisdictions had increases ranging from 9.9% (Oregon) to 24.2% (Alberta).

Residents of California, Washington, and Oregon have much higher real personal disposable incomes than Canadians. These states have an overall lower tax burden and incomes are higher in the US than in Canada. The gap in real personal disposable income per capita between BC and the states reviewed ranges from $7,325 (Oregon) to $12,344 (Washington State).

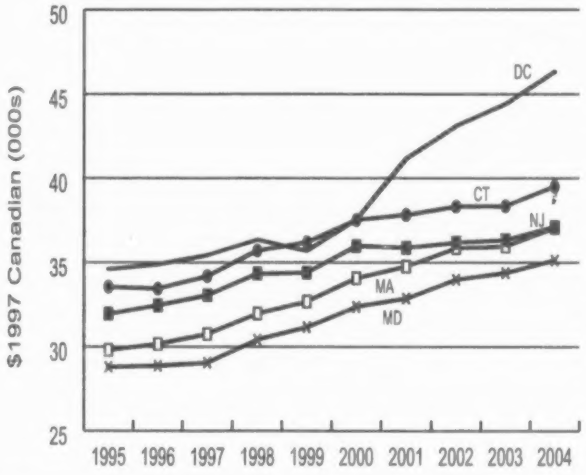
Standard of Living

How Does BC Compare?

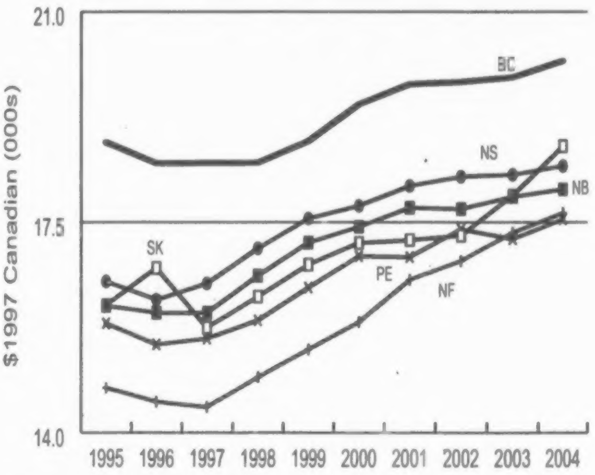
British Columbia ranked 54th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2004. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their $1997 Canadian incomes for 2004 were: District of Columbia ($46,324), Connecticut ($39,507), New Jersey ($37,113) Massachusetts ($37,058) and Maryland ($35,125).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Nova Scotia ($18,433), New Brunswick ($18,045), Saskatchewan ($18,761), Prince Edward Island ($17,549) and Newfoundland & Labrador ($17,652).

Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997
BC and the Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America

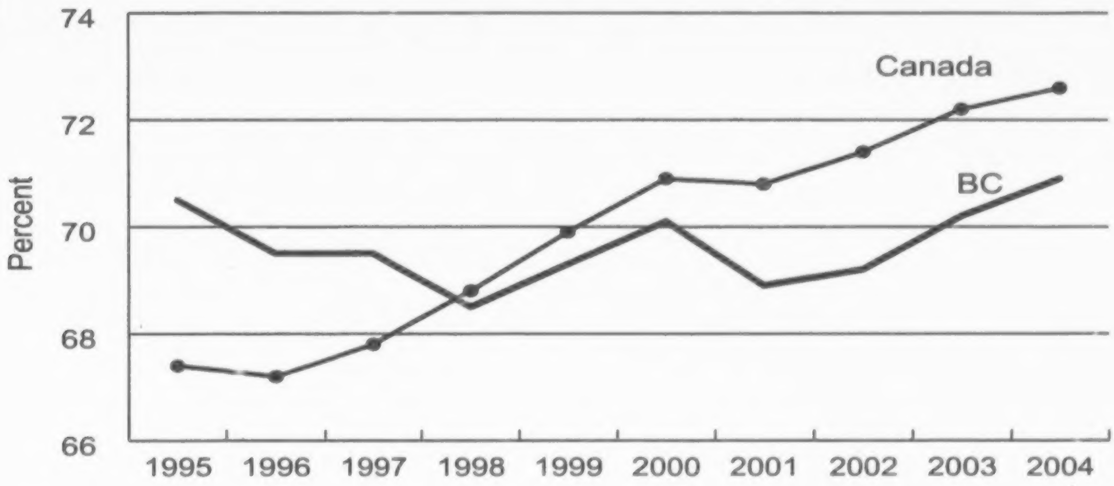


Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1994	1996	1998	2000	2004	2004 rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average
District of Columbia	35,099	34,878	36,343	37,549	46,324	1	38,948	1
Connecticut	33,260	33,435	35,702	37,520	39,507	2	36,458	2
New Jersey	31,208	32,440	34,331	35,977	37,113	3	34,762	3
Massachusetts	29,565	30,147	31,959	34,067	37,058	4	33,299	4
Maryland	28,842	28,861	30,409	32,369	35,125	5	31,697	5
British Columbia	**18,837**	**18,480**	**18,491**	**19,459**	**20,182**	**54**	**19,231**	**54**
Nova Scotia	16,292	16,210	17,064	17,772	18,433	58	17,468	57
New Brunswick	15,643	15,990	16,610	17,423	18,045	59	17,070	58
Saskatchewan	15,309	16,735	16,260	17,155	18,761	57	16,999	59
Prince Edward Island	15,576	15,465	15,867	16,935	17,549	61	16,512	60
Newfoundland & Labrador	14,494	14,514	14,922	15,839	17,652	60	15,820	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Employment Rate (Ages 15 to 64), BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

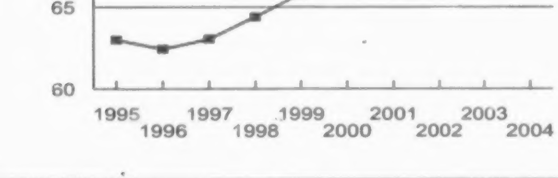
Description

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64 years, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Why it's Important

The employment rate is an effective measure of the rate of labour utilization. Higher labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

Provinces - Employment Rate



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 5th*	2002 7th	2003 6th	2004 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 9th	2001-2002 8th*	2002-2003 4th	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 10th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

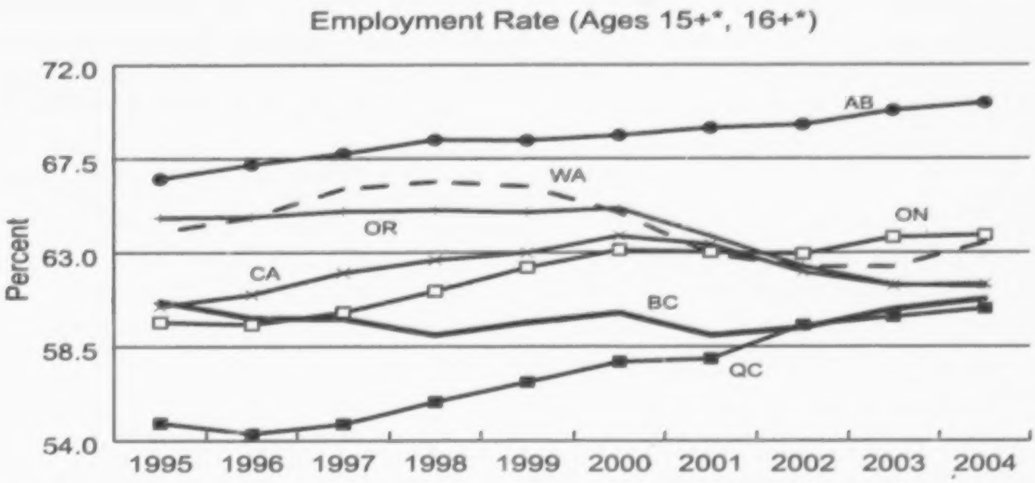
From 1995 to 2004, BC consistently stayed in the mid-range for the employment rate in Canada. In 1995, it ranked fourth overall in Canada with a rate of 70.5%, compared to 74.1% in Alberta and 68.7% in Ontario.

The Canadian average in 2004 was 72.6%, compared to 78.3% in Alberta and 73.6% in Ontario. In 2004, BC lagged behind the leading provinces with an employment rate of 70.9%, placing it fifth overall in Canada.

Until 1998, BC had an above average employment rate within Canada, but it has lagged since. However, the gap shrank in 2003 for the first time since 1994 and shrank again in 2004, due to robust year over year job growth.

Notes: This exposition is based on preliminary data which will be revised for the December release of the 2005 Benchmarking Report. *Does not match the rank reported in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Jobs



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Description:

The employment rate is the percentage of people aged 16 and older that are employed in a jurisdiction. This indicator is a general measure of the ability of a jurisdiction to create work for its population, as well as the desire of its population to participate in the labour force. The latter desire is influenced by such factors as the age distribution of the population and after-tax earnings from work, while the ability to create work is determined by the relative cost of labour and the output performance of the economy.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 6th	2002 7th	2003 6th	**2004 6th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 5th	2001-2002 2nd**	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 7th	1993-2002 5th**	1994-2003 5th	1995-2004 **6th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia missed out on the improvement experienced in California, Ontario, and Quebec in the late 1990s but has seen improvement in recent years. Over the last decade, the employment rate in BC has remained relatively constant, while in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta the rate trended upward. British Columbia improved its rank in 2003 from 7th to 6th due to robust year over year job growth, a pattern which continued through 2004.

Notes: *Government statistical agencies in Canada and the United States use different measures of the employment rate. For this comparison people aged 15 years and over in Canada are included for both population and employment, while in the United States people aged 16 years and over are included. While this small difference will have some impact on comparisons between the countries, it is unlikely to result in significant differences, other things being equal. **Does not match rank in 2004 Report due to data revisions. The statistical models used for developing statewide LAUS estimates have been replaced with new, third-generation models, featuring real-time benchmarking to monthly national Current Population Survey (CPS) employment and unemployment totals.

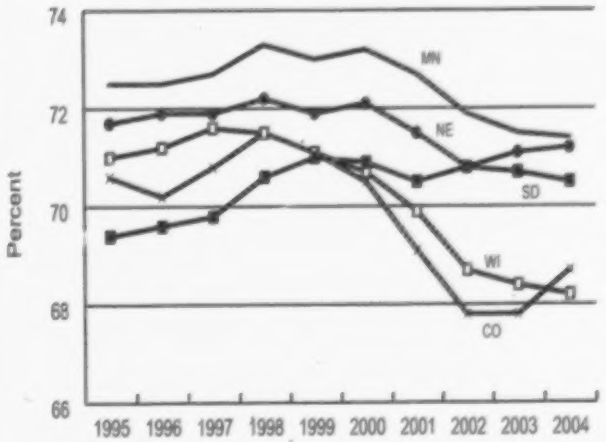
Jobs

How Does BC Compare?

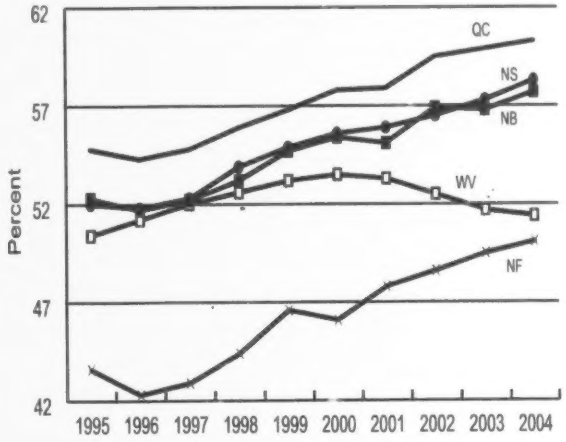
British Columbia ranked 45th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2004. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2004 employment rates were: Minnesota (71.4%), Nebraska (71.2%), South Dakota (70.5%), Wisconsin (68.2%), and Colorado (68.7%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Quebec (60.3%), Nova Scotia (58.3%), New Brunswick (57.7%), West Virginia (51.4%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (50.1%).

Employment Rate (15+*, 16+*)
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Employment Rate (Ages 15+*, 16+*)
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



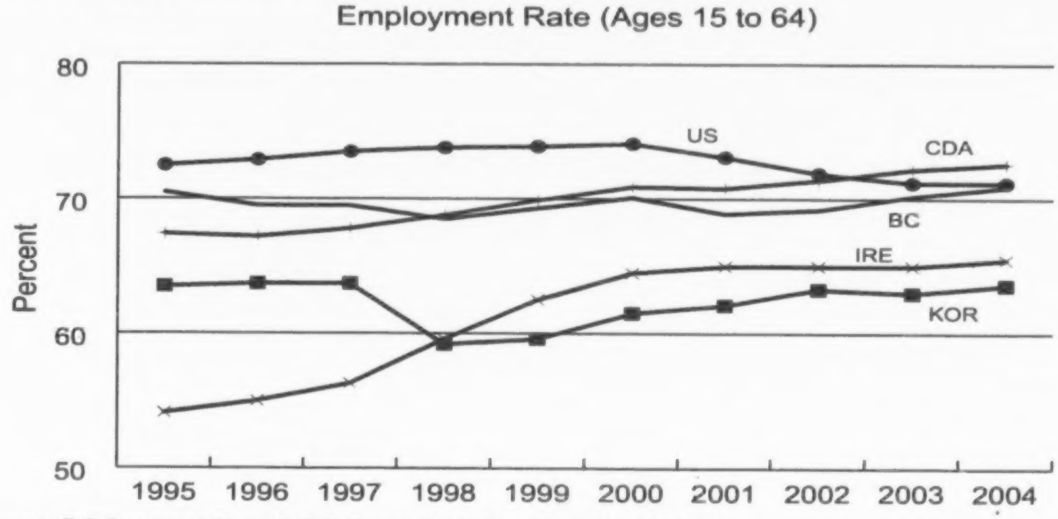
Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1994	1996	1998	2000	2004	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average
Minnesota	71.8	72.5	73.3	73.2	71.4	1	72.5	1
Nebraska	71.1	71.9	72.2	72.1	71.2	2	71.6	2
South Dakota	68.9	69.6	70.6	70.9	70.5	3	70.4	3
Wisconsin	70.3	71.2	71.5	70.7	68.2	10	70.2	4
Colorado	69.6	70.2	71.5	70.5	68.7	6	69.8	5
British Columbia	**61.0**	**59.9**	**59.0**	**60.1**	**60.8**	**45**	**59.9**	**48**
Quebec	54.6	54.3	55.9	57.8	60.3	46	57.2	57
Nova Scotia	51.8	51.8	53.9	55.6	58.3	55	54.9	58
New Brunswick	51.1	51.7	53.2	55.4	57.7	57	54.6	59
West Virginia	49.8	51.2	52.6	53.5	51.4	60	52.2	60
Newfoundland & Labrador	43.1	42.3	44.4	46.1	50.1	61	46.2	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Notes: *For this comparison, people aged 15 years and over in Canada are included for both population and employment, while in the United States people aged 16 years and over are included.

Jobs (Employment Rate - for those aged 15-64)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64 years, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Employment to Population Ratio (for those aged 15-64)

	Employment to Population, 2004, percent	Rank for Employment to Population, 2004 (of 31)	2003-2004 Change in Employment to Population, percent	Rank for 2003-2004 Change in Employment to Population (of 31)	Average Annual Growth, 1995 - 2004, percent	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1995 - 2004 (of 31)
British Columbia	**70.9**	**11**	**1.0**	**12**	**0.0**	**24**
Canada	72.6	9	0.6	15	0.8	8
Finland	67.2	16	(0.3)	23	1.2	4
Ireland	65.5	17	0.9	14	2.4	2
Japan	68.7	13	0.5	16	(0.1)	26
Korea (South)	63.6	20	1.0	11	0.2	22
Mexico	60.8	24	2.0	3	0.4	18
Netherlands	72.7	8	0.0	20	1.3	3
New Zealand	73.5	5	1.5	5	0.8	9
Norway	75.6	4	(0.2)	22	0.5	17
Switzerland	77.4	2	(0.7)	25	0.2	21
United Kingdom	72.7	7	0.1	18	0.6	14
United States	71.2	10	0.0	19	(0.1)	27
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page.

Jobs (cont.)

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia has relatively high employment when compared to OECD countries. In 2004, BC ranked 11th out of 31 jurisdictions with an employment to population ratio (ages 15-64) of 70.9%. British Columbia's ratio was below top ranked Iceland (82.8%) and well above bottom ranked Turkey (46.1%). British Columbia ranked 11th for the average ratio over the period 1995 through 2004.

British Columbia's ratio increased by 0.9% between 2003 and 2004 placing it in the middling range with a 12th place rank for annual growth. Average annual growth in the employment to population ratio between 1995 and 2004 in BC was flat, earning a 24th place rank.

Canada ranked 9th in 2004 with an employment to population ratio of 72.6%; its 1995-2004 average of 69.9% earned it a 10th place rank. Canada's employment to population ratio increased by 0.6% between 2003 and 2004 for a 15th place rank. Canada had 0.8% growth, on average, between 1995 and 2004 earning an 8th place rank.

The employment to population ratio in the **United States** was 71.2% in 2004 earning it a 10th place rank. The 1995-2004 average ratio of 72.8% in the US placed it 6th overall. The US employment to population ratio in 2004 was unchanged from 2003 for a 19th rank. On average, annual growth in the US ratio between 1995 and 2004 was slightly negative which placed it 27th.

Iceland's 82.8% was the highest 2004 employment to population ratio, followed by **Switzerland** at 77.4% and **Denmark** at 76.0%. Iceland, Switzerland and Norway had the highest 1995-2004 average ratios at 82.6%, 77.9% and 76.6%, respectively. Switzerland's ratio fell by 0.7% (25th rank) between 2003 and 2004, Iceland's fell by 1.5% (30th rank) and Norway's fell by 0.2% (22nd rank). Iceland had 0.5% annual average growth in the employment to population ratio over 1995 through 2004 (15th rank); Switzerland had a 0.2% increase, on average (21st rank); Norway had 0.5% average annual growth (17th rank).

South Korea's employment to population ratio was relatively low in 2004 at 63.6%, earning it the 20th rank; South Korea's 1995-2004 average ratio was a 19th ranked 62.3%. **Mexico**'s 2004 ratio of 60.8% was also relatively low and earned a 24th place rank; Mexico's 1995-2004 average ratio was a 23rd ranked 60.2%.

At 65.5%, **Ireland** had the 17th ranked employment to population ratio in 2004, but it had strong growth in the mid to late 1990s. Ireland's ratio increased by 0.9% between 2003 and 2004 (14th rank), and increased by 2.4% each year, on average, between 1995 and 2004. This average annual growth was second-best in the OECD, behind Spain at 2.7% average annual growth.

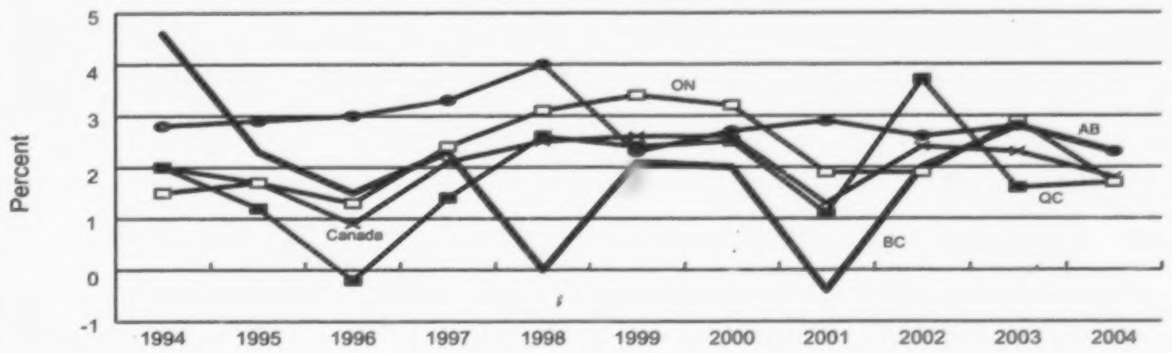
Note: The population group surveyed for this indicator varies slightly among OECD countries. Canada's definition matches the OECD standard of 15 to 64 years old, but several countries report data based on the 16 to 64 year old age group. These countries are: Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. These differences likely have a minimal effect on the above exposition and ranks, other things being equal.

Employment Measures

Employment and Employment Growth

Employment measures the total number of jobs[1] in a jurisdiction and annual **employment growth** is the number of jobs added or lost in a given year. Employment in BC grew by 2.3% between 2003 and 2004 for a 3rd place rank (in Canada) and by 1.7%, on average, between 1995 and 2004 for a 6th place rank. British Columbia ranked third for employment growth from 1995 through 1997, had weak growth from 1998 through 2001 (10th, 7th, 7th and 9th, respectively), and improved to 5th in 2002, 2nd in 2003, and 3rd in 2004.

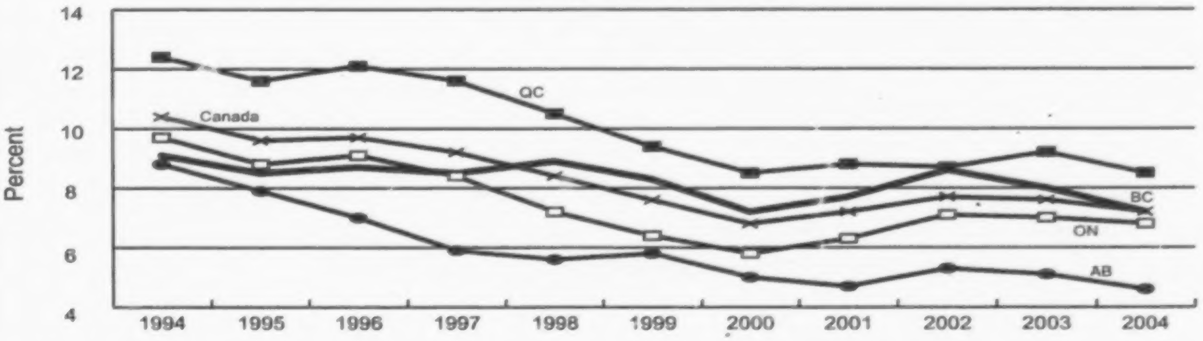
Employment Growth Rate



Unemployment Rate

The **unemployment rate** measures the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. British Columbia ranked 4th (in Canada) in 1995 and 1996 and 5th in every year between 1997 and 2004. British Columbia's unemployment rate ranged from a high of 8.9% (in 1998) to a low of 7.2% (in 2000 and 2004) over the 1995 to 2004 period.

Unemployment Rate



Employment Rate

The **employment rate** used in Core Target 3 tracks, among those aged 15 to 64, the ratio of employment to population[2]. British Columbia ranked 4th on this measure between 1995 and 1997, 5th between 1998 and 2001, 7th in 2002, 6th in 2003 and 5th in 2004.

Note: [1]Subject to survey coverage; Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey covers only the civilian, non-institutional population 15 years and older. [2]Statistics Canada reports the employment rate for the 15 and older population.

Historical Comparison

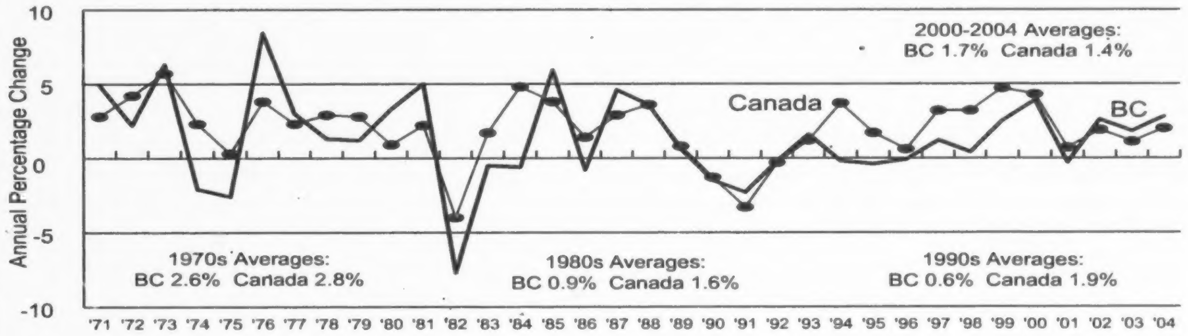
Description:

These figures illustrate data from 1971 through 2004 for the first three Core Targets: economic growth, standard of living, and jobs. Two interesting facts are revealed in this long-term analysis. First, BC's performance on growth in real GDP per capita and real personal disposable income per capita deteriorated in the 1980s, and was especially weak in the 1990s. Second, BC's performance has been especially weak relative to the national average on these two core indicators, though importantly BC placed ahead of the national average in 2002, 2003 and 2004 for growth in real GDP per capita for the first time since 1993. Taken together, this presentation suggests BC has experienced a long period of structural decline, though there is improvement in recent years.

Core Target 1: Economic Growth

Average annual growth in real GDP per capita in BC was 2.6% during the 1970s, 0.9% in the 1980s and 0.6% in the 1990s. In 1970, BC's real GDP per capita was $20,906. It grew by 28.6% to $26,886 in 1980, declined by 1.5% to $29,088 in 1990, grew by 6.5% to $30,983 in 2000 and grew by 6.9% to $33,129 in 2004.

Growth Rate of Real GDP (Chained $1997) Per Capita for BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

British Columbia's average annual growth was 93.1% of Canada's in the 1970s, 54.2% in the 1980s, 34.1% in the 1990s, and so far this decade, has been 20.3% higher than the Canadian average. In 1970, BC real per capita GDP was $3,457 higher than the Canadian level. The difference was roughly the same ($3,232) in 1980, but had fallen to $1,457 by 1990. The BC advantage fell to $11 in 1996 and then turned negative to such a degree that BC's real GDP per capita was $2,608 below the national average in 2001 although the gap has narrowed by $571 to $2,037 in 2004 following better than national average BC growth in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Core Target 2: Standard of Living

Average annual growth in real PDI per capita in BC was 5.2% during the 1970s, 0.6% in the 1980s, negative 0.4% in the 1990s, and 0.9% between 2000 and 2004. In 1970, BC's real PDI per capita was $11,596. It grew by 66.1% to $19,261 in 1980, a further 5.3% to $20,274 in 1990, shrank by 4.0% to $19,459 in 2000, and grew by 3.7% to $20,182 in 2004.

British Columbia's average annual growth in real PDI per capita was 31.6% greater than Canada's average annual growth in the 1970s, was only 46.1% of Canada's average annual growth in the 1980s and shrank during the 1990s. British Columbia's average growth has been 77.7% of the national average so far this decade.

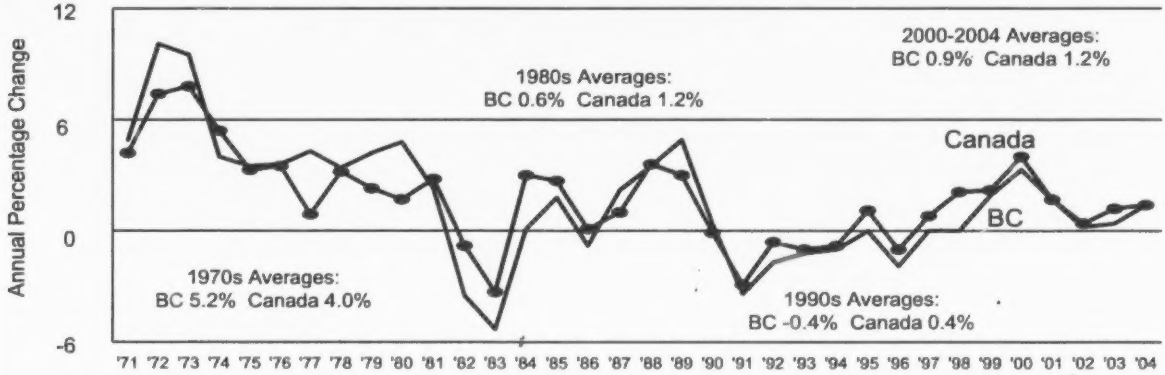
In 1970, BC real PDI per capita ($11,596) was essentially the same as the Canadian level ($11,498). British

Continued on following page.

Historical Comparison (continued)

Columbia had strong growth in real PDI per capita in the 1970s and the $98 difference present in 1970 grew to $2,318 by 1980. This shrank to $1,204 by 1990 and to $222 in 1997. From 1998 onward BC's real PDI per capita has been below the Canadian average and the difference has grown every year except 2001 such that BC's level was $580 below the national average in 2004.

Growth Rate of Real PDI ($1997) Per Capita for BC and Canada



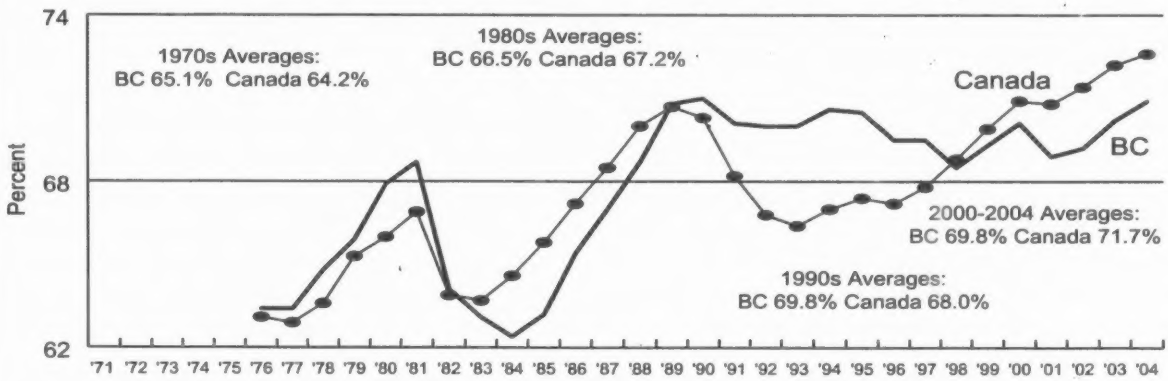
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Core Target 3: Jobs

In contrast to its performance on the other economic core targets, BC's performance on the employment rate shows some improvement since the 1970s and slight deterioration over the 1990s. The average employment to population ratio in BC was 65.1% between 1976 and 1980, 66.5% in the 1980s and 69.8% in the 1990s.

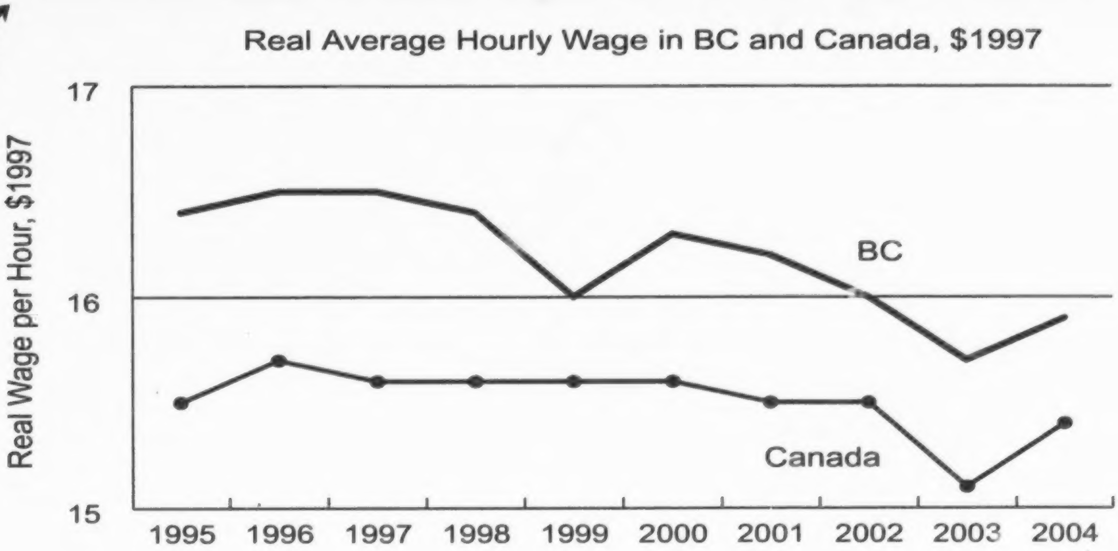
The performance of British Columbia and Canada are similar on this core target indicator. From 1976 through 1990, the national average and BC's indicator values moved more or less in unison and were never further than 5.2% (3.7 percentage points) apart. In the 1990s, BC's ratio remained relatively flat while Canada's dipped and returned such that by 1998, Canada's ratio was above BC's. British Columbia's employment rate has shown strong improvements in recent years and its average rate for 2000 through 2004 is the same as it was in the 1990s (69.8%).

Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15-64) for BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Performance Indicator 1 Real Average Hourly Wage Economy, Innovation and Education



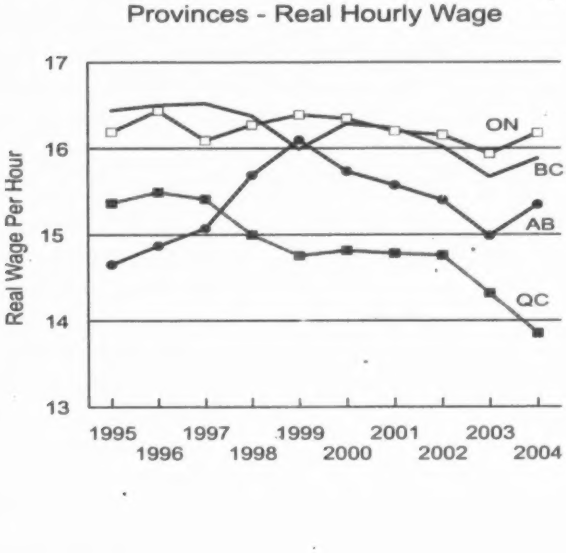
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures inflation-adjusted average hourly wages earned by workers and is calculated and ranked from the worker's point of view.

Why it's Important

Real average hourly wages are a useful measure of individual prosperity. Flat real wages indicate that wage earners are simply keeping up with increases in living expenses.



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 1st	2002 2nd	2003 2nd	2004 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 3rd	2001-2002 9th	2002-2003 6th	2003-2004 **8th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 8th	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 6th	1995-2004 **7th**

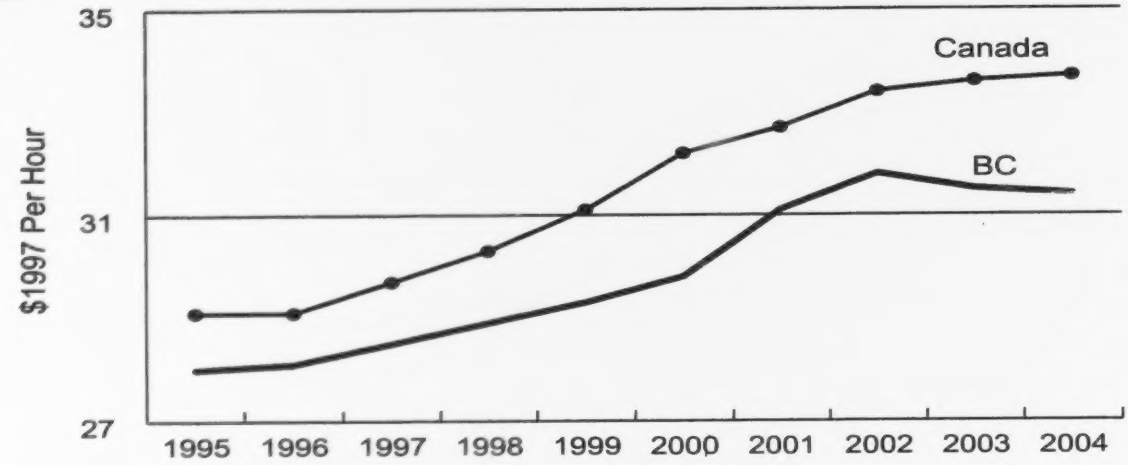
How Does BC Compare?

In 1995, British Columbia ranked first in Canada with a real average hourly wage of $16.44. In 2004, British Columbia ranked second with a real average hourly wage of $15.88, behind Ontario at $16.18 and ahead of Alberta at $15.35.

The real average hourly wage in BC fell by 3.4% between 1995 and 2004, which earned it a ninth place rank for improvement among the provinces. Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia had growth of 12.5% and 5.4% respectively while Alberta saw a 4.7% increase, and Quebec's hourly wage fell by 5.7%.

Performance Indicator 2 Productivity Economy, Innovation and Education

Real GDP Per Hour Worked (Business Sector),BC and Canada

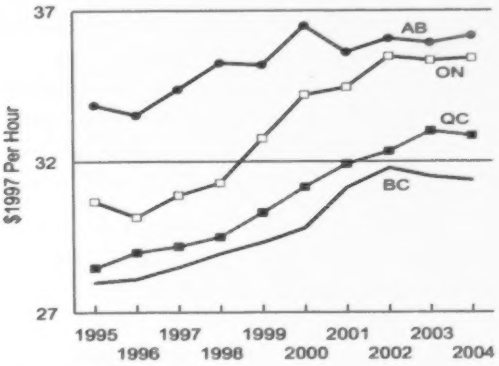


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

There are many different measures of productivity, but perhaps the best is real GDP per hour worked in the business sector. This is a good measure of the overall efficiency of the economy. For every hour of labour in BC, workers produce a given amount of GDP.

Provinces - Productivity



Why it's Important

Growth in productivity is essential to improving income levels, public services and, ultimately, the standard of living. If productivity fails to increase, a jurisdiction's living standards will eventually decline.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 4th	2002 5th*	2003 5th*	2004 6th
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 1st*	2001-2002 7th*	2002-2003 10th	2003-2004 7th
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 6th*	1993-2002 4th*	1994-2003 8th*	1995-2004 8th

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, British Columbia ranked sixth in Canada on this measure of productivity. Alberta and Ontario held the number one and two ranks through the entire 1995 to 2004 period of analysis. Newfoundland and Labrador (41.0%) and Saskatchewan (23.5%) saw the largest percentage increases in productivity between 1995 and 2004 while BC's increase for this time period was 12.1 percent, ahead of Alberta at 6.8 percent and Prince Edward Island at 2.6 percent.

In 1995, Alberta led BC in real GDP per hour (business sector) by $5.88 (21.0%). By 2000 the gap had increased to $6.70 (22.5%) and was $4.79 (15.3%) in 2004. Seven provinces made gains on BC of between $0.25 and $6.45 in real GDP per hour between 1995 and 2004. Alberta had a loss of $1.09 and Prince Edward Island fell $2.87 compared to BC over the same period.

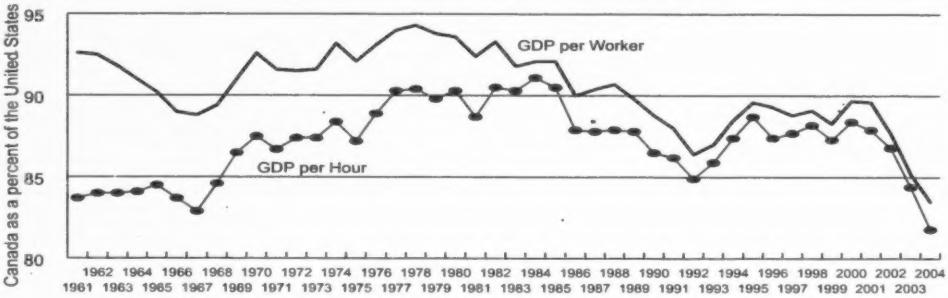
Notes: Data excludes government services and health and education, even though some are provided by the private sector. *Does not match the rank in the previous Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Productivity

Productivity is a measure of the efficiency of an economy, or the amount of output that is produced for a given amount of inputs (land, labour and capital), and is critically important for its contribution to improving economic growth and living standards. Productivity growth and labour force growth are two key ingredients that can influence economic growth, generally measured as GDP per capita. Between 1956 and 2002, for example, output per hour (or labour productivity) growth accounted for 117 percent of GDP per capita growth. Labour force growth has not seen nearly as rapid an increase and has decreased at times due to declines in overall hours worked and employment rates in the post-war period. This relationship directly affects Canadian and BC living standards in terms of the total hours of work required for a given set of outputs, wage levels, and the level of social support the economy can provide.

Although Canada has had strong economic performance since 1995, its productivity vis-a-vis the US has deteriorated, especially since 2000. In 2004, Canada's business sector productivity was 74 percent of the United States, the lowest since the 1950s. Our productivity has been deteriorating in comparison with other jurisdictions as well; Canada was ranked 17th out of 23 OECD countries in terms of GDP per hour worked in 2004, down from 16th in 1990, 12th in 1980 and 5th in 1970.

Canadian Relative to US Labour Productivity

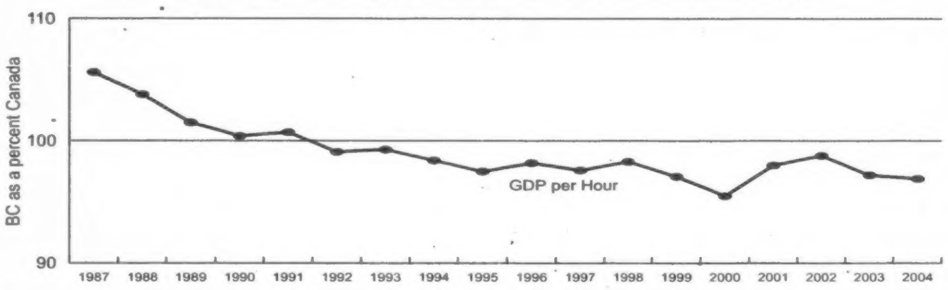


Sources: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

A recent analysis of the labour productivity gaps in Canada relative to the United States for 31 industries[1] found that Canada had a large productivity gap in three of four industry groups in 2001: primary, manufacturing, and services and a large advantage in construction. At a finer level of detail, productivity discrepancies between Canadian and American industries ranged from a 54 percent disadvantage in the electronics and electrical equipment industry to a 50 percent *advantage* in primary metals. Other than transportation, productivity in Canadian service industries was lower than in the US. Canada enjoys a significant advantage in the resource-based manufacturing industries of wood products, paper, chemicals, non-metallic minerals and primary metals as well as in printing and publishing, motor vehicles and other transportation equipment. The productivity gap is large in labour intensive industries including: textiles & clothing, fabricated metals, machinery & computers, and electronic & electrical equipment.

British Columbia had a labour productivity advantage within Canada in several industries and industry groups but had a disadvantage overall in 2004. British Columbia's real GDP per hour worked was 96.9 percent of Canada's and was especially low in certain manufacturing industries such as clothing manufacturing (51.5%) and miscellaneous food manufacturing (59.0%). However, the manufacturing industry category as a whole in BC was 96.4 percent of Canada's, buoyed by strong performances in wood product (147.3%), meat product (149.3%), computer and peripheral equipment (192.6%) and miscellaneous non-metallic product manufacturing (201.0%).

British Columbian Relative to Canadian Labour Productivity



Sources: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

Continued on following page.

Productivity (cont.)

British Columbia had a productivity advantage relative to Canada in several industry categories, including: agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting (162.2%), mining & oil and gas extraction (145.0%), and transportation warehousing (112.1%). Particularly strong within these categories was forestry and logging at 159.9 percent of Canada. British Columbia had a productivity disadvantage in construction (83.6%), and wholesale trade (92.8%) among others.

As a small open economy highly dependent on international trade and mobile investment sources, BC competes aggressively for skilled labour, intellectual capital, technology, and investment with other jurisdictions world-wide. Closing the productivity gap with the US economy is of critical importance for both BC and Canada's attempts to attract and retain mobile resources.

Factors that influence productivity have received considerably study; several of the most important follow:

Capital Intensity: The amount of capital per unit of labour (per worker or per hour worked) is one potential factor in Canada and BC's lower labour productivity. Studies generally confirm that capital intensity is a factor in the productivity gap with the US, although the precise extent of the effect is openly debated. Generally Canada compares quite favourably on "structures to labour" measures, but less favourably on machinery & equipment ratios, with the latter generally having the more significant impact on overall productivity levels.

Technology Innovation & Diffusion: While measurement is exceedingly difficult, there appears to be an innovation gap between Canada and the US affecting the level of productivity enhancing innovations, the amount of research and development work being done, and the pace at which new technology and information is diffused in the economy. The level and rate of innovation and diffusion both have a positive impact on increasing production efficiency and productivity levels.

Human Capital: The level of education and the general skill of the labour force significantly impact a jurisdiction's ability to quickly adapt and use new technologies and best practices, to innovate, and to work efficiently and productively. While BC, Canada and the US are fairly comparable overall on educational attainment levels depending which measures are used, the US compares more favourably on important indicators such as the quality and number of research institutions and science graduates.

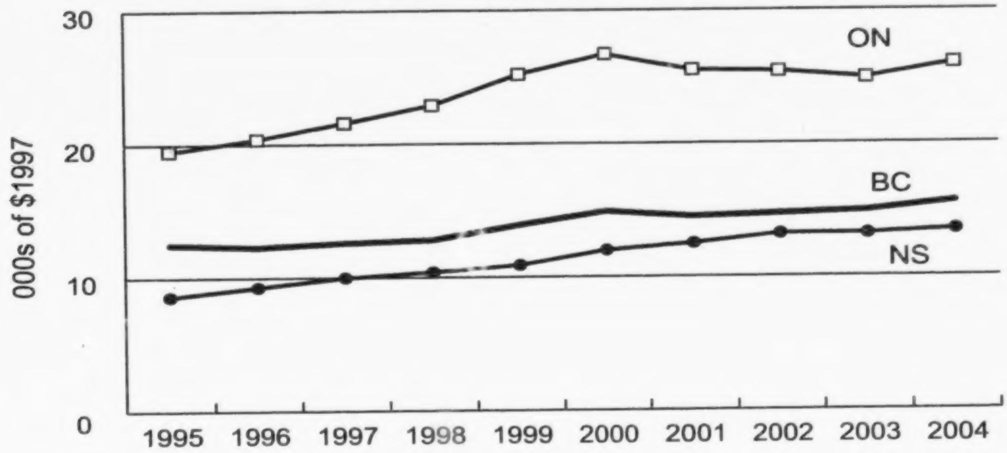
A number of other influences have potentially impacted productivity levels in both BC and Canada in recent years, including: limited presence of economies of scale due to smaller firm sizes and markets; the falling number of head offices, which generally have a positive impact on innovation and production levels; and the long-term effects of a low Canadian dollar which has allowed export oriented firms to compete on world markets without having to make productivity enhancing improvements, particularly during the last decade. The rapid escalation in the Canadian dollar during 2003, 2004 and 2005 has certainly changed this equation and will force firms to become more competitive if the dollar stays at high levels.

Productivity is closely linked to economic growth. Increasing BC's performance on this key measure while concurrently focusing on other "critical factors" and indicators identified elsewhere in this report should ultimately contribute to increasing British Columbian's standard of living.

Sources: [1]Rao, Tang and Wang, Measuring the Canada-U.S. Productivity Gap: Industry Dimensions, International Productivity Monitor, Number 9, Fall 2004; Centre for the Study of Living Standards, Aggregate Income and Productivity Trends: Canada vs. the United States and Labour, Capital and Total Factor Productivity Tables by Industry for Canada and the 10 Provinces (online databases, data accessed on October 25th, 2005); Rao and Tang, Productivity and Competitiveness Challenges Facing Canadian Industries, Micro-Economics and Policy Branch, Industry Canada, May 7, 2003; Rao, Sharpe and Smith, An Analysis of the Labour Productivity Growth Slowdown in Canada since 2000, International Productivity Monitor, Number 10, Spring 2005; Groningen Growth and Development Centre and The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, August 2005, http://www.ggdc.net.

Performance Indicator 3 Exports Economy, Innovation and Education

Total Exports of Goods and Services ($1997) Per Capita, BC And Highest and Lowest in Canada*

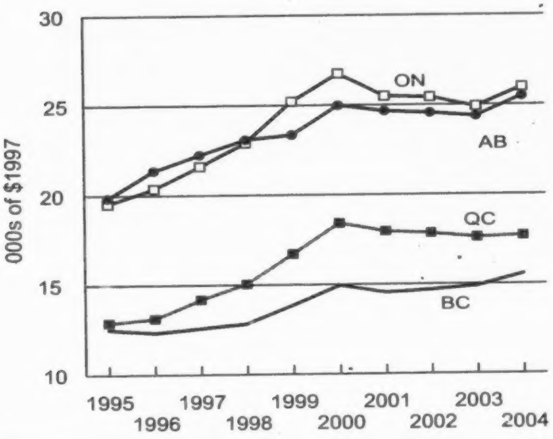


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description
This indicator measures the total amount of goods and services exported to international and inter-provincial jurisdictions from Canadian provinces, on a per capita basis.

Why it's Important
Strong exports tend to increase productivity and income levels in a jurisdiction due to additional markets available beyond the domestic market.

Provinces - Exports Per Capita ($1997)



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 7th	2002 8th	2003 8th	**2004** **8th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 9th	2001-2002 4th**	2002-2003 3rd**	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 10th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **10th**

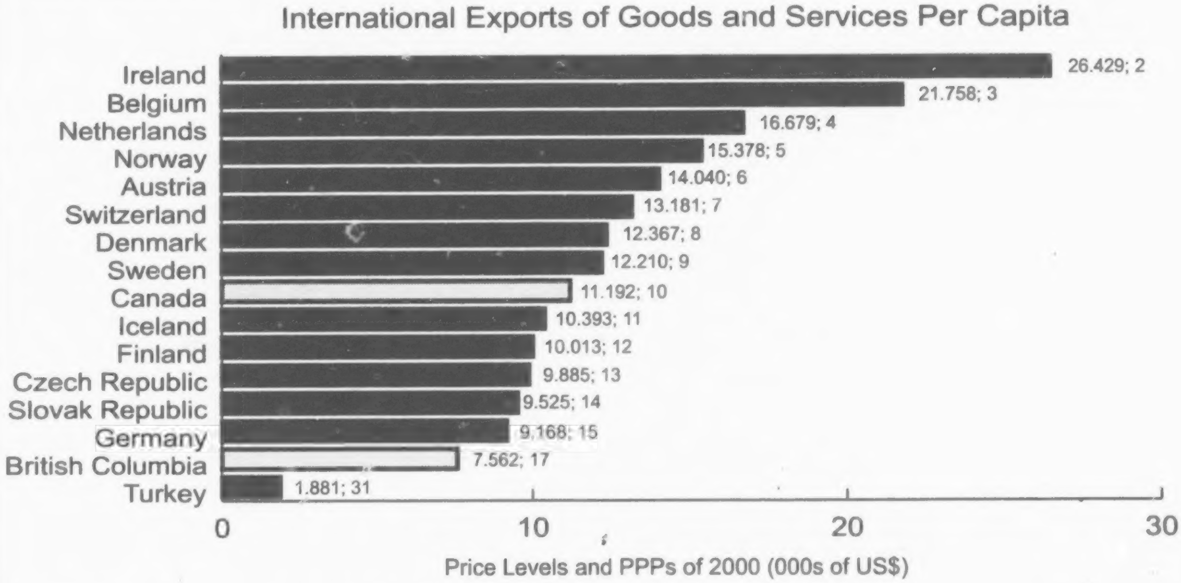
How Does BC Compare?
In 1995, BC posted total exports per capita of $12,520. By 2004, BC's exports per capita had climbed to $15,553, giving it eighth rank among Canadian provinces. Between 1995 and 2004, BC's per capita exports increased by an annual average rate of 2.5%. This rate of growth was the lowest in Canada.

In comparison, Alberta increased its exports at an average annual rate of 2.9% over the period. This was the second smallest growth in Canada, but Alberta's exports in 2004 stood at $25,467 per capita, the second highest in the country.

Ontario's per capita exports rose at an annual average rate of 3.6% between 1995 and 2004. In 2004, Ontario had the highest per capita exports in Canada at $25,968. Newfoundland and Labrador's per capita exports grew by an average of 10.1% per year between 1995 and 2004 and exceeded BC's by $742 in 2004.

Notes: *A Canadian average is not available for this indicator because of Statistics Canada's switch to the Fisher index formula.
**Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

International Exports


International Exports of Goods and Services Per Capita

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

International Exports of Goods and Services Per Capita, price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US$)

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for 2003 (of 31)	1994 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1994 - 2003 Average (of 31)
British Columbia	**6,244**	**8,093**	**9,239**	**7,562**	**17**	**8,025**	**14**
Canada	6,062	9,036	12,920	11,192	10	10,756	9
Finland	5,026	7,585	11,042	10,013	12	9,136	12
Ireland	8,779	14,406	27,804	26,429	2	21,633	2
Japan	2,425	2,248	2,812	3,101	29	2,653	28
Korea (South)	2,778	3,967	6,675	6,981	18	5,506	22
Mexico	1,461	2,322	2,823	2,487	30	2,415	30
Netherlands	11,908	13,459	18,440	16,679	4	15,716	4
New Zealand	4,750	5,513	7,367	6,406	22	6,219	21
Norway	10,780	11,903	16,952	15,378	5	14,291	5
Switzerland	10,374	9,914	13,880	13,181	7	11,962	6
United Kingdom	4,967	6,275	7,170	6,822	20	6,642	18
United States	2,706	3,308	3,882	3,390	28	3,481	26
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page.

International Exports (cont.)

Description:
This indicator measures the total amount of goods and services exported to international jurisdictions, measured in 2000 US Dollars on a per capita basis.

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, **British Columbia** ranked in the middle of the pack (17th) of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) jurisdictions with $7,562* of international exports per person. British Columbia fared better, on average, for annual international exports during the period 1994 through 2003, with $8,025 in international exports on average (at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 US$) which earned a 14th place rank.

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2003 level of international exports of goods and services, earning 10th place rank** with exports of $11,192 per person. Canada's average per capita exports over the period 1994 through 2003 were $10,756 (at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 US$) which earned a 9th place rank.

Canada's main trading partner, the **United States**, had a low level of per capita international exports ($3,390) and earned the 28th place rank in 2003. The United States was two positions higher for average per capita exports over the 1994 to 2003 period with a level of $3,481 and 26th place rank.

Ireland earned 2nd place with per capita exports of $26,429, three and a half times the level in British Columbia. Ireland's average per capita exports for 1994 through 2003 of $21,633, while considerably lower than its 2002 level, still earned a 2nd place rank. The phenomenal growth in exports that Ireland has experienced can be seen in the table on the previous page. In 1990, Ireland was exporting $8,779 per person which earned it a 7th place rank (of 29 jurisdictions). Ireland's exports nearly doubled in each of the five year periods from 1990 to 1995 and 1995 to 2000 and were three times higher in 2003 than in 1990.

Although the United States and Japan have relatively low per capita export values they are major exporters in the OECD. In 2003, the United States ranked first with a 16.1% share of the OECD's value of goods and services exported to other countries (based on value in US dollars), followed by Germany with a 13.2% share and Japan at 7.8%. Canada ranked 7th with a 5.0% share - behind the France (4th, 7.0%), the United Kingdom (5th, 6.9%) and Italy (6th, 5.7%). The smallest shares were in the Slovak Republic (28th, 0.4%), New Zealand (29th, 0.4%) and Iceland (30th, 0.1%).

Notes: *These data do not match those presented elsewhere in the Report because different currency and exchange rates are used here. See Appendix B for more information. **As with the economic growth exposition, Luxembourg is excluded from the discussion because a large share of its' labour force lives outside the country which distorts these data.

Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade

British Columbia is a small, open economy that depends on interprovincial and international trade for billions of dollars of income and resources every year. In 2004, BC exported $67.5 billion worth of goods and services, approximately 43.1% of the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and imported $73.4 billion. Comparatively, Canada's exports accounted for 33.3% of Canadian 2004 GDP.

The real value of BC's exports grew 4.9% from 2003 to 2004 while imports grew 6.4%. These numbers represent above average growth among the provinces in both imports and exports; the average yearly growth levels for 1990-2004 was 3.7% for exports and 3.8% for imports. Since 1990, exports have grown 51.5% and imports 53.0% in real terms.

Trade intensity is the total exports and imports of a jurisdiction over a period of time; it measures the importance of trade to the economy. British Columbia is highly trade intense – exports and imports combined in 2004 total $140 billion dollars, more than 90% of provincial GDP. In comparison, Canada's overall trade intensity last year was less than 62% of GDP.

BC International and Interprovincial Trade Flows

	BC		Canada	
	$ (billions)	Percent of GDP	$ (billions)	Percent of GDP
Export	67.5	43.1	42.9	33.3
To Other Countries	44.4	28.4	n/a	n/a
To Other Provinces	23.1	14.8	n/a	n/a
Import	73.4	46.9	36.3	28.1
From Other Countries	40.5	25.9	n/a	n/a
From Other Provinces	32.9	21.0	n/a	n/a
Trade Intensity	140.9	90.1	79.2	61.4
Balance of trade	(5.9)	(3.8)	6.6	5.1

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada **Note:** These data are collected on a Balance of Payments basis and may not match data collected on a customs basis.

The balance of trade (total exports minus total imports) for BC in 2004 was negative $5.9 billion, meaning BC imported almost $6 billion more than it exported last year. A negative balance of trade is also called a trade deficit or trade gap and in simple terms it means a jurisdiction is spending more than it is producing. If excessively large, both trade deficits and surpluses (when exports exceed imports) can be a sign of economic problems. However, BC's trade deficit is relatively small, equal to 3.7% of provincial GDP. British Columbia's average trade deficit over the 1990-2004 period was 4.5% of GDP.

International exports accounted for 67.5% of total exports in BC in 2004, and have accounted for two-thirds to three-quarters of total exports from 1990-2004. Interprovincial exports throughout the same time frame account for one-quarter to one-third of all exports, and were 32.5% in 2004. Imports for 2004 were 55.1% international and 44.9% interprovincial. This split has been relatively constant since 1990.

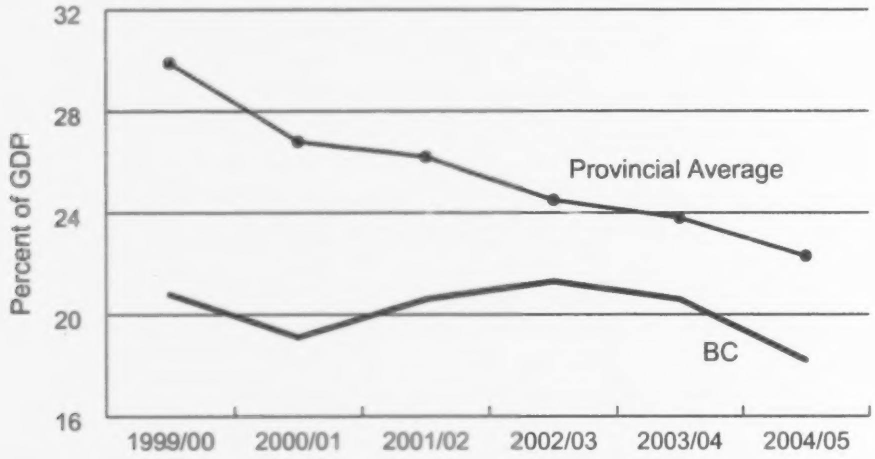
BC's main international exports for 2004 were Wood Products (32.4% of total exports) of which 69% is softwood lumber, and Pulp and Paper Products (16% of exports), 60% of which is pulp. Other main international exports include Energy Products (14.5%) including natural gas and coal, Machinery and Equipment (10.1%), and Metallic Mineral Products (6.8%). Rounding out the total are: fish products (3.1%), agriculture and food other than fish (4.8%) and all other commodities (12.3%).

Performance Indicator 4

Debt

Economy, Innovation and Education

Provincial Taxpayer-Supported Debt* as a Percent of GDP, BC and Provincial Average

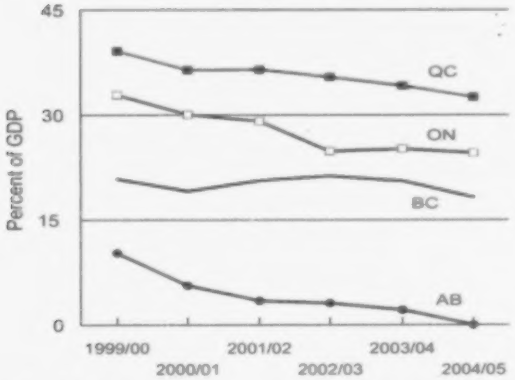


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; TD Economics.

Description

This indicator measures the provincial net public debt burden as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP). Taxpayer-supported debt includes government direct debt, and the debt of Crown corporations and agencies that require a subsidy from the provincial government.

Provinces - Taxpayer-Supported Debt*



Why it's Important

Payments to service taxpayer-supported debt can consume a large portion of a jurisdiction's budget, thereby diminishing its capacity to provide public services. The debt burden is also an important indication of a jurisdiction's attractiveness for business investment.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 2nd	2002/03 3rd**	2003/04 3rd**	2004/05 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01 - 2001/02 10th	2001/02 - 2002/03 8th**	2002/03 - 2003/04 4th**	2003/04 - 2004/05 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2001/02 n/a	1993/94 - 2002/03 n/a	1994/95 - 2003/04 n/a	1995/96 - 2004/05 **n/a**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004/05, British Columbia posted the second lowest taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP at 18.2%, behind Alberta, which has eliminated its debt, and ahead of Manitoba at 19.0%.

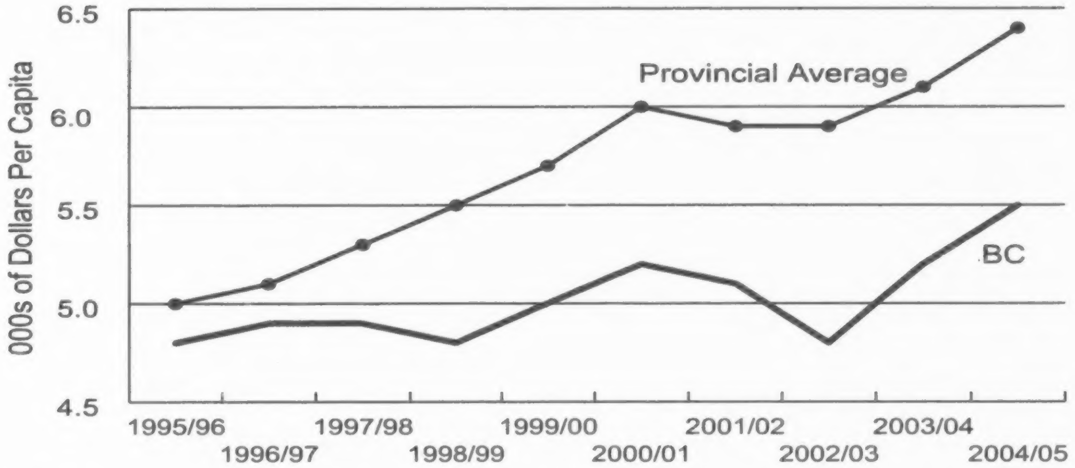
The difference in taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP between BC and the provincial average shrank from 9.1 percentage points in 1999/00 to 3.2 in 2002/03 as BC's ratio generally grew and the Canadian average ratio fell. The difference grew to 4.1 percentage points in 2004/05 as BC's ratio fell faster than average.

As of March 31, 2005, British Columbia's taxpayer-supported debt was $28.6 billion, or 79% of the province's total debt burden. The remaining 21%, or $7.2 billion, of BC's public debt is self-supported debt incurred by commercial Crown corporations and agencies that carry and repay their own debt.***

Notes: *The full series is not available due to accounting changes for BC and other provinces. **Does not match the rank reported in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. ***Government of British Columbia, Budget and Fiscal Plan: 2005/06 - 2007/08, February 15, 2005.

Performance Indicator 5 Tax Burden Economy, Innovation and Education

Per Capita Consolidated Tax Burden, BC and Provincial Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

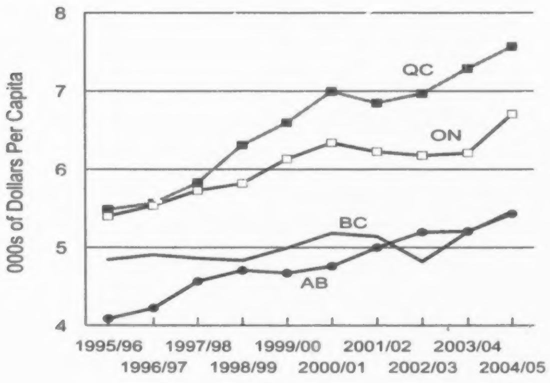
Description

This indicator represents the combined tax burden from local and provincial sources, expressed on a per person basis. It is a comprehensive measure of the tax bill; details of the taxes included can be found in Appendix C.

Why it's Important

This indicator is a good summary measure of the "total" provincial and local tax burden, and along with other factors such as the regulatory burden, infrastructure quality, and access to quality health care and education, can help to determine business location and investment decisions.

Provinces - Tax Burden



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 7th	2002/03 5th	2003/04 5th*	2004/05 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01 - 2001/02 5th	2001/02 - 2002/03 1st	2002/03 - 2003/04 10th	2003/04 - 2004/05 **7th**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2001/02 1st	1993/94 - 2002/03 1st	1994/95 - 2003/04 1st	1995/96 - 2004/05 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

BC posted the sixth lowest consolidated provincial and local government tax burden in Canada at $5,462 in 2004/05. From 1995/96 onward, BC experienced a 12.8% increase in this tax burden, the smallest increase in the country.

Alberta usually has had a lower consolidated provincial and local tax burden than BC; in 2003/04 and 2004/05 they were less than $30 apart. From 1995/96 to 2004/05, BC saw the per capita consolidated provincial and local government tax burden rise by $619. In comparison, Alberta recorded an increase of $1,346 and Ontario posted an increase of $1,307.

Between 2003/04 and 2004/05, provincial revenues from personal income taxes grew by 3.3% and corporate income tax revenue grew by 59.2%. Consumption tax revenue grew by 4.2% and property tax revenue grew 5.4% over the same period.

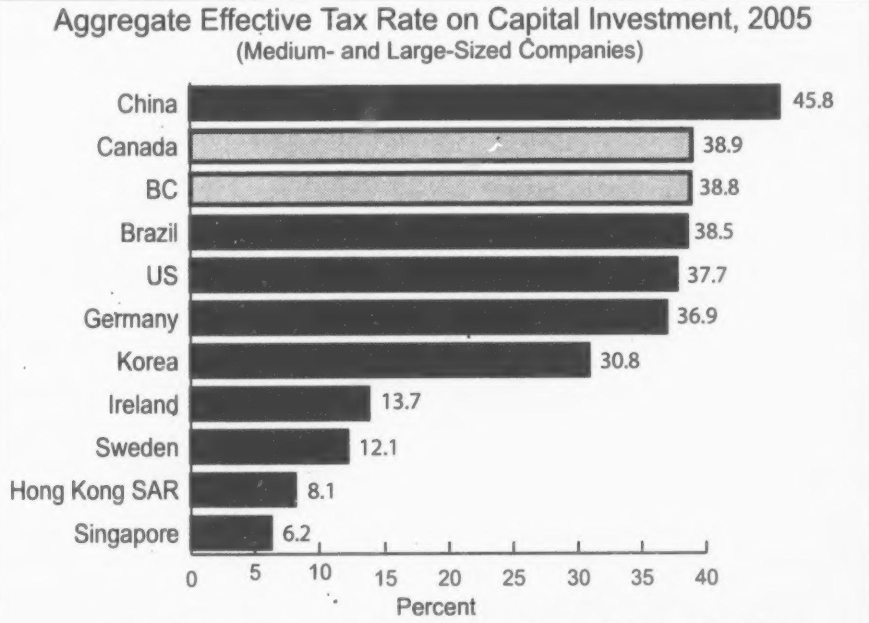
Note: This indicator uses data from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) and, therefore, may not exactly match results provided by government Finance Ministries. *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Business Tax Competitiveness

As the economy becomes increasingly global and reaps the benefits of continual technology advances, physical location becomes less important. A brief examination of some of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) illustrates that BC and Canada share many of the ingredients of these jurisdiction's success: a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructures, and export-oriented production. The only key difference appears to be effective tax rates that are far above those of competing jurisdictions.

While British Columbia's and Canada's corporate tax rates appear competitive with other global jurisdictions in analyses which use simple statutory corporate income tax rates, this does not always present a true picture of the real costs investors face; a variety of other taxes and tax related factors combine to influence the effective tax rate investors pay. Capital taxes, sales and excise taxes, inventory and depreciation deductions, and personal and investment taxes all affect the rate of return net of taxes that a business receives on its investment – the rate that any potential investor will use in comparisons with other jurisdictions. By limiting investor returns, high effective tax rates reduce the likelihood of investments in productivity enhancing capital projects and new technologies that could otherwise serve to raise wages and increase standards of living.

Aggregate Effective Tax Rate on Capital Investment, 2005
(Medium- and Large-Sized Companies)



Source: CD Howe Institute, The 2005 Tax Competitiveness Report: Unleashing the Canadian Tiger, September 2005.

Canada has the second highest aggregate effective tax rate among thirty-six competitor countries in 2005. At 39.0 percent, Canada's rate is lower than only China's 45.8 percent and is much higher than the low tax countries shown in the figure.

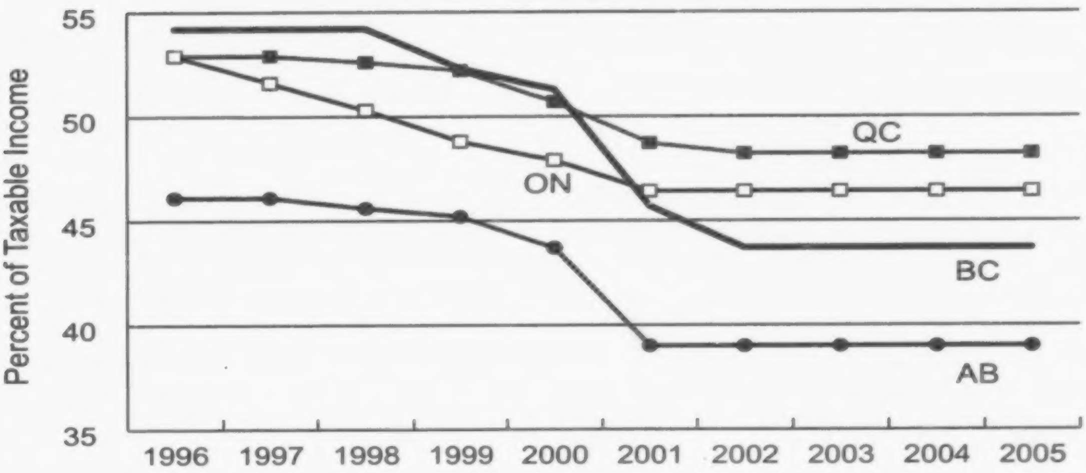
A comparison of aggregate effective tax rates shows that BC had the fourth highest rate among the provinces in 2005 with a rate 7.0 percentage points above Alberta, but 4.7 percentage points below Ontario. Effective tax rates on capital investments are expected to decline to 38.5 percent in 2010 from 38.8 percent in 2005.

Competitive tax rates and fiscal policies are a key factor found in Canada's most successful competitors. Tax rates are not the whole story as companies also look for a number of other factors including a skilled and educated labour-force, efficient infrastructure, easy access to services inputs and transportation routes. British Columbia has made progress but must continue its efforts to both be a less expensive place to do business, as well as being a *better* place to do business.

Sources: Jack M. Mintz with Duanjie Chen, Yvan Guillemette and Finn Poschmann, The 2005 Tax Competitiveness Report: Unleashing the Canadian Tiger; Jack Mintz, Tax Policy Choices Facing Small Open Economies: The Case of British Columbia, November 18th, 2003 presentation.

Performance Indicator 6 Tax Rate Economy, Innovation and Education

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate for British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG.

Description

The top marginal personal income tax rate is the combined federal-provincial income tax rate levied on the highest income bracket. The top rate takes effect at various income thresholds as noted in the box below.

Why it's Important

The top marginal (combined federal and provincial) income tax rate is a key factor in a jurisdiction's ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers and leading innovators. High marginal tax rates tend to discourage additional work effort and lessen the growth of real GDP.

How Does BC Compare?

From 1994 to 1998, BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada at 54.2%. Newfoundland was the closest province to BC with a rate of 53.3% between 1996 and 1998.

Alberta has had the lowest top marginal tax rate throughout the entire 1996 to 2005 period. Alberta's highest rate over this period was 46.1%, in place in 1996 and 1997. The gap between BC's and Alberta's rates narrowed from 8.1 percentage points in 1996, to 4.7 percentage points in 2002, where it remains. In 2005, BC's top marginal personal tax rate stands at 43.7%, second lowest in the country behind Alberta at a rate of 39.0%. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest 2005 rate at 48.6%.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 2nd	2003 2nd	2004 2nd	**2005 2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 1st	2002-2003 2nd	2003-2004 1st*	2004-2005 **1st***
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 3rd	1994-2003 3rd	1995-2004 1st	1996-2005 **1st**

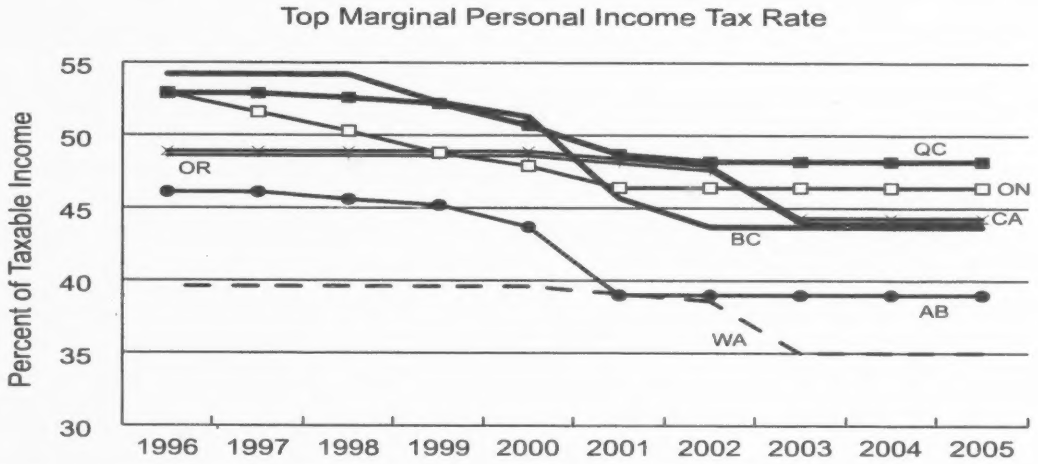
Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates and Income Thresholds for Individuals – 2005

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON**	QC***	NB	NS**	PE**	NF**	Federal
Tax Rate	14.70%	10.00%	15.00%	17.40%	17.41%	19.22%	17.84%	19.25%	18.37%	19.64%	29.00%
Income Bracket	$92,186 and over	All income	$105,057 and over	$65,001 and over	$68,021 and over	$56,071 and over	$106,428 and over	$93,001 and over	$61,510 and over	$59,181 and over	$113,805 and over

Source: KPMG, Combined Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates for Individuals and Federal and Provincial Tax Rates, Brackets and Surtaxes, Current as of December 20, 2004.

Notes: *All provinces ranked first in 2004 as there were no tax rate changes between 2003 and 2004; nine provinces tied for first for 2005 as only Nova Scotia increased its tax rate. **Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador levy surtaxes in their personal income tax systems; the income brackets shown are those that apply to the top statutory rates. ***The abatement of basic federal tax is incorporated.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG; US Internal Revenue Service.

Description

The top marginal personal income tax rate is the rate levied on individual taxpayers in the top income bracket for the next dollar of income earned. High tax rates discourage work effort and reduce potential GDP. In addition, they make an area a less desirable place to live and invest in, other things being equal, since less after-tax income is available for consumption and saving.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 3rd	2003 3rd	2004 3rd	**2005 3rd**
1-Year Progress Check*	2001-2002 1st	2002-2003 4th**	2003-2004 1st	**2004-2005 1st**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 2nd	1994-2003 2nd	1995-2004 1st	**1996-2005 1st**

How Does BC Compare?

On average, the lowest top marginal personal income tax rates are in Alberta and Washington State. From 1994 through 2000 British Columbia had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate with rates over 50%. Cross-border comparisons of income tax rates are complicated by the fact that top marginal rates in the US take effect at much higher incomes than in Canada. Canadian top marginal tax rates take effect at incomes over $113,805; US top rates do not apply until the taxpayer reaches a Canadian dollar income of $413,618.

US Top Marginal Tax Rates and Income Thresholds, 2003	CA	OR	Federal
Income Threshold (single), $US	41,476	6,650	326,450
Income Threshold (single), $CDN	52,551	8,426	413,618
Top Marginal Tax Rate, %	9.3	9.0	35.0

Notes: *All jurisdictions ranked first for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 as there were no tax rate changes. **The US federal tax rate decreased in 2003; the provinces all ranked fourth for the 1-Year Progress Check for 2002-2003. Washington State has no state personal income tax; the rates shown for Washington State are the applicable federal personal income tax rates. The 2004 PPP exchange rate was used for the threshold conversions presented above.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates

The federal government uses four brackets to determine personal income tax owed while most provinces use three. British Columbia's personal income tax system has five brackets, New Brunswick uses four and Alberta, with its single rate system, has only one taxable income bracket.

The brackets and rates in the table below apply to taxable income, that is, after exemptions and deductions have been applied to total income. British Columbia and Ontario have the lowest rate in the first bracket, and although Ontario's rate does not apply until a slightly higher level of taxable income, BC's structure has a higher basic personal amount which allows one to earn more before income is considered taxable. Alberta has the highest basic personal amount which, at $14,523, is well above BC's third-highest $8,676.

The highest tax rate in the federal structure, 29.0 percent, applies to taxable incomes over $115,740. The comparable rates in the provincial systems range from Alberta's 10.0 percent, which applies to all taxable income, to Newfoundland and Labrador's 18.02 percent which applies to taxable incomes of $59,181 and higher. British Columbia's highest tax rate of 14.7 percent is applied to taxable incomes over $92,186.

In addition to basic federal and provincial personal income tax, four provinces, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador levy surtaxes at varying rates. These rates apply once "basic" personal income tax reaches the threshold listed in the table.

Combined Federal and Provincial Personal Income Tax Rate Structures, 2005

	Federal	**BC**	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
Basic Personal	8,149	**8,676**	14,523	8,404	7,634	8,196	9,330	7,888	7,231	7,412	7,410
1st Bracket Range ($)	0 - 35,595	**0 - 33,061**	all income	0 - 36,770	0 - 30,544	0 - 34,009	0 - 28,030	0 - 32,731	0 - 29,590	0 - 30,754	0 - 29,590
1st Bracket Rate (%)	16.00	**6.05**	10.00	11.00	10.90	6.05	16.00	9.68	8.79	9.80	10.57
2nd Bracket Range ($)	35,596 - 71,190	**33,062 - 66,123**	n/a	36,771 - 105,056	30,545 - 65,000	34,010 - 68,020	28,031 - 56,070	32,732 - 65,462	29,591 - 59,180	30,755 - 61,509	29,591 - 59,180
2nd Bracket Rate (%)	22.00	**9.15**	n/a	13.00	14.00	9.15	20.00	14.82	14.95	13.80	16.16
3rd Bracket Range ($)	71,191 - 115,739	**66,124 - 75,917**	n/a	105,057 +	65,001 +	68,021 +	56,071 +	65,463 - 106,427	59,181 - 93,000	61,510 +	59,181 +
3rd Bracket Rate (%)	26.00	**11.70**	n/a	15.00	17.40	11.16	24.00	16.52	16.67	16.70	18.02
4th Bracket Range ($)	115,740 +	**75,918 - 92,185**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	106,428 +	93,001 +	n/a	n/a
4th Bracket Rate (%)	29.00	**13.70**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.84	17.50	n/a	n/a
5th Bracket Range ($)	n/a	**92,186 +**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5th Bracket Rate (%)	n/a	**14.70**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surtax 1 Threshold	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,929	n/a	n/a	10,000	5,200	7,032
Surtax 1 Rate	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.00	n/a	n/a	10.00	10.00	9.00
Surtax 2 Threshold	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,957	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surtax 2 Rate	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: KPMG; Ufile.ca; Revenue Quebec

With an annual income of $30,000 in 2004, a married taxpayer with a spouse and two children of ages six and twelve would pay $2,867 in federal and BC income tax. This fifth-lowest amount among the provinces compares to the lowest, Quebec at $1,774 and Newfoundland and Labrador, the highest at $3,694. The same taxpayer, with an income of $60,000 would pay $11,185 in Alberta, followed by second-lowest BC at $11,682, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador with the highest amount among the provinces, $14,672.

Continued on following page.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates (cont.)

Among the provinces, British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is second-lowest for most people's main income source, salary and interest income, second-lowest for capital gains income and fourth-lowest for dividend income.

Alberta has the lowest and Newfoundland and Labrador has the highest top marginal personal income tax rates for all classes of income.

British Columbia has the third-lowest combined federal and provincial small business income tax rates for 2005, behind Alberta and New Brunswick. The highest rate for small businesses with incomes less than $300,000 is in Quebec.

BC ranked third among the provinces for its general corporate tax rate, behind Quebec and Alberta, and ranked second, behind Alberta for the tax rate on corporate investment income. Saskatchewan had the highest general corporate income and investment income tax rates in 2005.

Combined Federal and Provincial Tax Rates 2005

	Top Marginal Rates (%)			Ranks for Top Marginal Rates		
	Salary & Interest	Capital Gains	Dividends	Salary & Interest	Capital Gains	Dividends
Federal	29.00	14.50	19.58	n/a	n/a	n/a
BC	43.70	21.85	31.58	2	2	4
AB	39.00	19.50	24.08	1	1	1
SK	44.00	22.00	28.33	3	3	2
MB	46.40	23.20	35.08	4	4	8
ON	46.41	23.20	31.33	5	4	3
QC	48.22	24.11	32.81	8	8	6
NB	46.84	23.42	37.26	6	6	9
NS	48.25	24.13	33.06	9	9	7
PE	47.37	23.69	31.96	7	7	5
NF	48.64	24.32	37.32	10	10	10

Source: KPMG

Corporate Income Tax Rates* 2005

	Small Business Income up to $300,000[c]	General Active Business Income	Investment Income	Small Business Income up to $300,000[c]	General Active Business Income	Investment Income
	Percent			Rank		
BC[b]	17.6	34.1	47.8	3	3	2
AB	16.1	33.6	47.3	2	2	1
SK	18.1	39.1	52.8	4	10	10
MB	18.1	37.1	50.8	4	7	6
ON	18.6	36.1	49.8	8	5	4
QC	22.0	31.0	52.0	10	1	9
NB[a]	15.1	35.1	48.8	1	4	3
NS	18.1	38.1	51.8	4	8	7
PE[a]	19.6	38.1	51.8	9	8	7
NF	18.1	36.1	49.8	4	5	4

Source: KPMG Notes: [a]decreased small business rate in 2005, NB from 2.5% to 2.0% and PE from 7.5% to 6.5% [b]reflects the provincial decrease to 12.0% [c]rate applies up to the provincial threshold: BC, AB, MB, ON, QC: $400,000, NB: $450,000, NS $350,000

Sources: KPMG, 2005 Combined Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates for Individuals and Federal and Provincial Tax Rates, Brackets and Surtaxes, 2005 Federal and Provincial Personal Tax Credits, 2005-2006 Combined Federal and Provincial Income Tax Rates for Income Earned by a Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation; Canadian Tax Foundation, Finances of the Nation 2004. **Note:** the tables presented above are simplified versions of the originals; please see the original documents for the full set of footnotes.

Head Offices

Head offices are the command centre of a company, the place where strategies are developed, senior managers work, professional services are employed, and where control over business decisions reside. The number of head offices in a region, and rate of growth or decline in that number, has become an important benchmark of both a region's attractiveness to business investment and its relative economic success.

Head offices have a significant positive economic impact on the region in which they reside. A variety of functions are carried out at the head office that may not be present at smaller 'branch' offices, factories, or other facilities of the company. The majority of high-paid and high-skilled professional and managerial positions in a company are generally located at the head office as are many of the company's research and development functions, both of which provide spin-offs for the local economy. In addition to high-skilled employment within the company, head offices are in constant need of outside services including accounting, advertising, engineering, consulting, legal, banking and financial services, generally hiring these services locally and creating 'trickle down' effects for the region in which they are located.

Corporate head offices also have a significant effect on other businesses in a region. Creating and training their own skilled labour pool can have additional economic benefits as professionals, from within the company and without, take on employment for other businesses in the area thereby furthering the creation of a skilled labour force. A successful head office will also impact the growth potential of other companies in the region as it looks to its neighbours for products and services, builds local relationships and signs contracts, and provides or encourages the development of necessary local infrastructure. The presence of head offices encourages a higher level of corporate involvement, support and donations to local charities, educational facilities and community events.

Head Offices of Canada's 500 Largest Corporations

	ON	QC	AB	BC	MB	SK	Atlantic
Per 1,000,000 Population							
2002	19.9	14.0	18.9	11.7	16.4	11.0	6.4
2003	19.1	13.5	20.3	12.0	17.2	12.1	6.8
2004	18.3	12.9	21.8	13.8	16.2	13.1	5.1
Percent of Total							
2002	48.2	20.8	11.8	9.6	3.8	2.2	3.0
2003	46.8	20.2	12.8	10.0	4.0	2.4	3.2
2004	45.4	19.4	14.0	11.6	3.8	2.6	2.4

Sources: National Post, FP 500: Canada's Largest Corporations; Statistics Canada

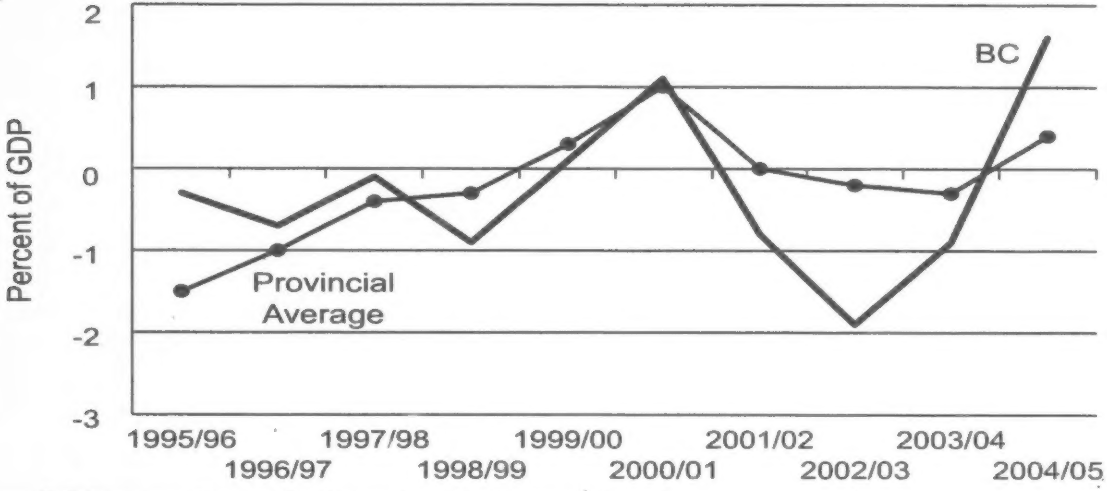
Data for major cities in Canada show that Vancouver lost head offices between 1990 and 2001. However, recent province-wide data show that BC's position on total head offices appears to have improved. In 2002 BC was home to the head offices of 9.6 percent of Canada's 500 largest companies. This grew to 10.0 percent in 2003 and 11.6 percent in 2004. There are many factors influencing a company's location decision. Government policy decisions naturally have a significant impact: relative tax rates, infrastructure, support for small and medium sized businesses, and the nature of the regulatory environment rank among them. Agglomeration effects are also a significant factor with companies often choosing to locate where they can find the inputs they require, principally a skilled professional or specialized work force, key production resources, and transportation and technological infrastructure.

The location of head offices is an important indicator of the relative success of a region's economy and the attractiveness of it business environment. Attracting head offices not only means that the region is perceived as a viable place to "do business" but also provides numerous benefits for the broader community.

Sources: Statistics Canada (2003), Hollowing-out, Trimming-down or Scaling-up? An Analysis of Head Offices in Canada, 1999-2002, cat. # 11F0027MIE; Business Council of British Columbia (2005), Corporate Head Offices in BC; Investment Dealers Association of Canada (2003); Unlocking British Columbia's Economic Potential, speech by Terry Salman, President; Canadian Council of Chief Executives (2005), The Immigration Advantage: How Multiculturalism Helps Canada Compete, speech by David Stewart-Patterson, Executive Vice President.

Performance Indicator 7 Surplus/(Deficit) Economy, Innovation and Education

Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP for British Columbia and the Provincial Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; Statistics Canada; Finance Canada.

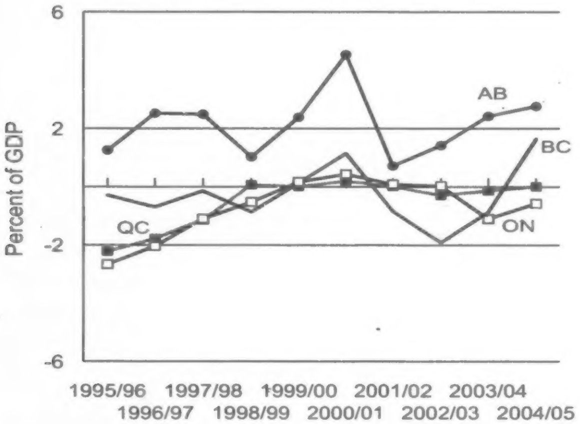
Description

This indicator is a simple measure of whether a provincial government is in a deficit or a surplus position, expressed as a percent of GDP.

Why it's Important

Over time, successive deficits will increase the total debt level. Large portions of provincial budgets may then be required to finance accumulated debt burdens with money that could otherwise be spent on priority government programs or used to lower taxes.

Provinces - Surplus/(Deficit)



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 9th	2002/03 9th*	2003/04 7th	2004/05 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01-2001/02 9th	2001/02-2002/03 10th*	2002/03-2003/04 1st	2003/04-2004/05 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93-2001/02 7th	1993/94-2002/03 9th	1994/95-2003/04 8th*	1995/96-2004/05 **3rd**

How Does BC Compare?

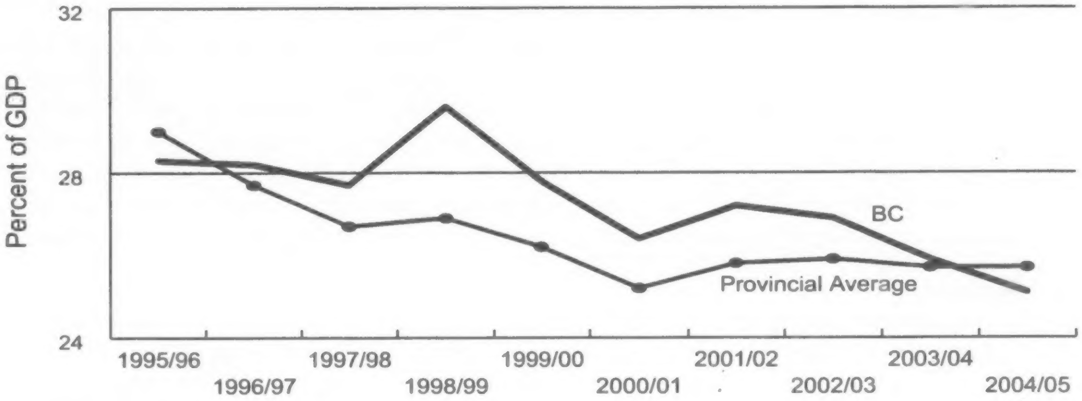
In 1995/96, BC had a deficit equivalent to 0.3% of GDP. The all province average in 1995/96 was a deficit of 1.5% of GDP. BC ran successive budget deficits between 1995/96 and 1998/99, before posting a surplus in fiscal years 1999/00 and 2000/01 buoyed by sharp (and temporary) "spikes" in electricity and natural gas revenues. These two surplus years were followed by three more deficit years. British Columbia posted the second largest surplus as a percent of GDP among the provinces in 2004/05.

Alberta and Saskatchewan both moved into surplus positions in fiscal year 1994/95, and have remained there since. In 2004/05, the all-province average was a surplus amounting to 0.4% of GDP. British Columbia's budget update** projects a $1.2 billion surplus in 2006/07 which would be roughly 0.7% of GDP.

Notes: Due to a break in the series reflecting accounting changes to fully comply with GAAP, data from 2000/01 are not directly comparable to earlier years. ****September Budget Update, 2005/06 - 2007/08*, British Columbia Ministry of Finance, September 14, 2005. *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Size of Government

Consolidated Local-Provincial Government Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and the Provincial Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Consolidated local-provincial government spending as a percent of GDP.

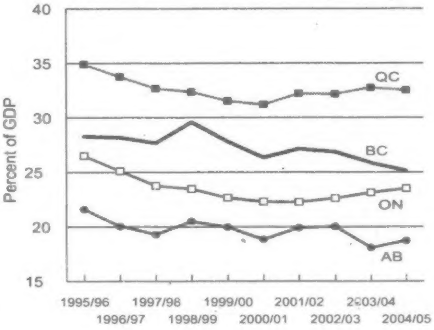
Why it's Important

Research* indicates that the relative size of a country's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness. Increases in the size of government beyond the "optimal point" may produce little in terms of social progress.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 3rd	2002/03 3rd	2003/04 3rd	2004/05 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01 - 2001/02 7th**	2001/02 - 2002/03 4th**	2002/03 - 2003/04 4th**	2003/04 - 2004/05 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2001/02 10th	1993/94 - 2002/03 10th	1994/95 - 2003/04 10th	1995/96 - 2004/05 **4th**

Provinces - Government Spending

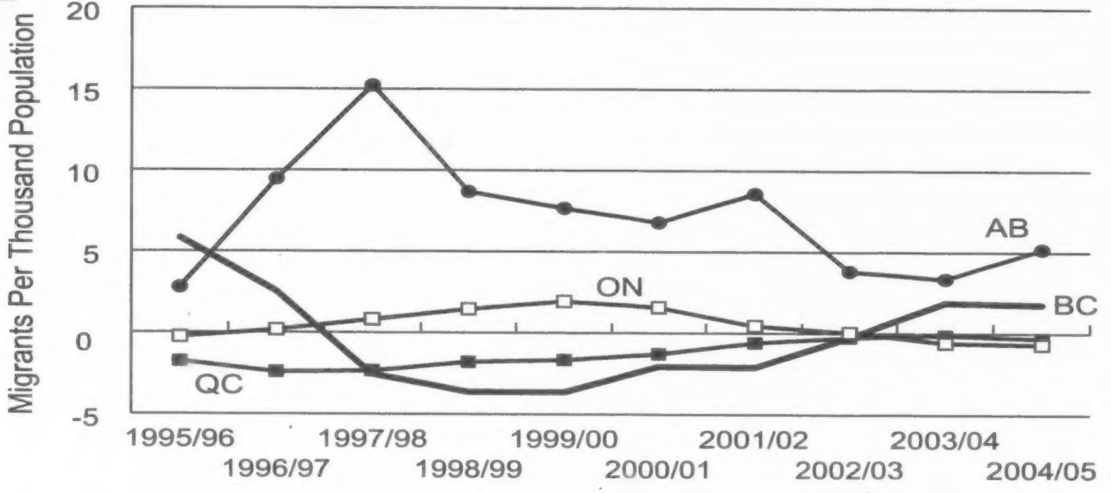


How Does BC Compare?

Although BC ranked 3rd in 2004/05, its government spending as a percent of GDP (25.1%) was above Alberta's (18.7%) and Ontario's (23.5%). Between 1995/96 and 2004/05, BC's government sector shrank by 11.1%, the fourth-largest decrease in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador government spending as a percent of GDP shrank by 28.9%, Alberta's shrank by 13.4% and Ontario's shrank by 11.4%. The other provinces had single-digit decreases over the last ten years ranging from 6.9% in Quebec to 9.3% in Manitoba. The one exception to this was Prince Edward Island, which saw government spending as a percent of GDP increase by 1.9% over the 1995/96 through 2004/05 period.

Notes: *Sources: Tanzi, Vito and Ludger Schuknecht (2000) Public Spending in the 20th Century: A Global Perspective, Cambridge University Press; Tanzi, Vito and L. Schuknecht (1995), The Growth of Government and the Reform of the State in Industrial Countries. IMF Working Paper, December. **Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions. This indicator uses data from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) and, therefore, may not exactly match results provided by Finance Ministries.

Performance Indicator 8 Migration Economy, Innovation and Education



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Net inter-provincial migration shows the movement of Canadians from one province to another, expressed as the number of migrants per 1,000 population.

Why it's Important

Net inter-provincial migration can serve as an indicator of a jurisdiction's attractiveness as a place to invest and work. Migration is an important contributing factor to economic growth and in expanding the pool of young, highly skilled workers.

Historically, there has been a correlation between inter-provincial migration flows and the relative economic strengths and weaknesses of a given jurisdiction.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 7th	2002/03 6th	2003/04 2nd*	2004/05 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01 - 2001/02 7th	2001/02 - 2002/03 3rd	2002/03 - 2003/04 1st	2003/04 - 2004/05 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2001/02 10th	1993/94 - 2002/03 10th	1994/95 - 2003/04 10th	1995/96 - 2004/05 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia had strong in-migration in the early 1990s but this flow turned negative in 1997/98. It returned to a positive flow in 2003/04.

From 1995/96 to 2004/05, BC posted an annual average decrease of 0.2 people per 1,000 population. BC had a positive flow of migrants in 1995/96 and 1996/97 and again in 2003/04 and 2004/05, but experienced negative flows from 1997/98 through 2002/03. Alberta led Canada with an average annual increase of 7.2 people per 1,000 population over the 1995/96 to 2004/05 period.

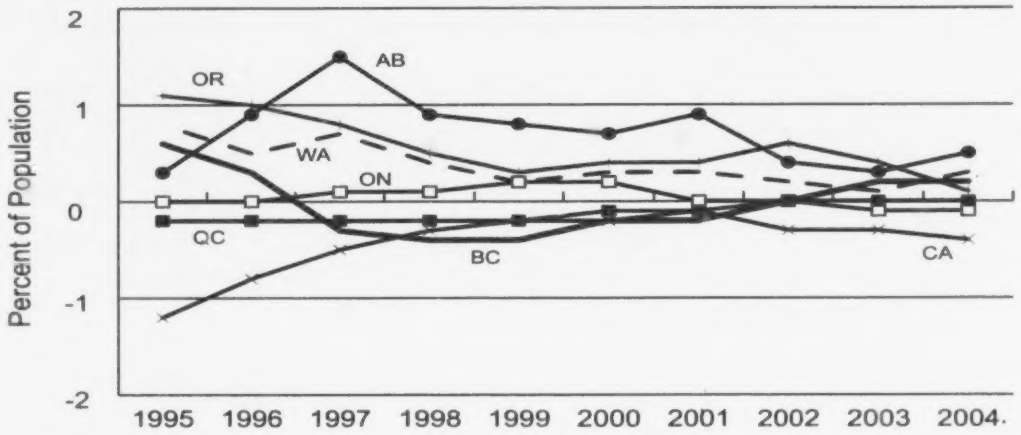
Over the 1995/96 through 2004/05 period, BC lost 9,776 people to other provinces. British Columbia gained 7,333 people in 2003/04 and 7,456 in 2004/05 but lost at least 8,286 people and as many as 14,610 per year between 1997/98 and 2002/03. Alberta gained 210,708 people from other provinces between 1995/96 and 2004/05, the largest increase of any province. Ontario (56,765) and Prince Edward Island (969) complete the list of provinces with a net inter-provincial gain of people during this period. Quebec lost 91,006 people to other provinces; Saskatchewan lost 50,650; Newfoundland and Labrador lost 48,448; Manitoba lost 38,223; New Brunswick lost 13,252; and, Nova Scotia lost 9,241.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Performance Indicator 8 Supplemental Information: US Comparison

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration as a Percent of Population



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau.

Description:

This measure presents net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration as a percent of the population of the respective province (state). A ratio above zero indicates that more people moved into the province (state) from other provinces (states) than people moved out. The province (state) is seen as a relatively attractive location to live and work if it has a high value for this indicator. A ratio below zero indicates a net decline in the population from inter-provincial (inter-state) migration. In this case the province (state) is seen as a less desirable place to live and work.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2001 7th	2002 6th*	2003 3rd*	2004 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 6th	2001-2002 2nd	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 7th	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 5th	1995-2004 **6th**

How Does BC Compare?

BC had a downward trend in net inter-provincial migration from the 1992 peak of 1.16% of population to a trough of negative 0.36% in 1998 and 1999. Losses decreased slightly to 0.21% in 2000 and 2001 and to 0.03 in 2002. British Columbia gained population from other provinces in 2003 for the first time since 1996 and gained again in 2004. British Columbia ranked 3rd for net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration in 2003 and 2004, a significant improvement from 6th in 2002 and 7th in 2001.

British Columbia's total population grew by 27.7% between 1990 and 2004 compared to 26.5% in Washington State and 7.8% in Quebec.

Notes: US state values from 1990 through 1999 are based on the 1990 Census; subsequent years are based on the 2000 Census. The 2000 values for the States are interpolated from the 1999 and 2001 values. Net domestic migration data (the US Census Bureau's inter-state migration indicator) are only available for one quarter in 2000, rather than the usual full year. *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

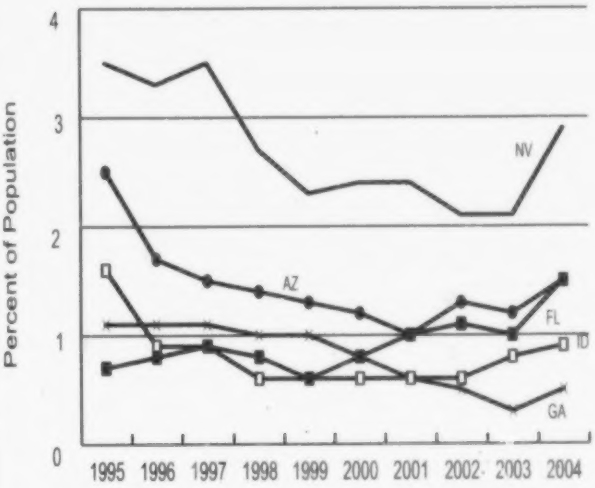
Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration

How Does BC Compare?

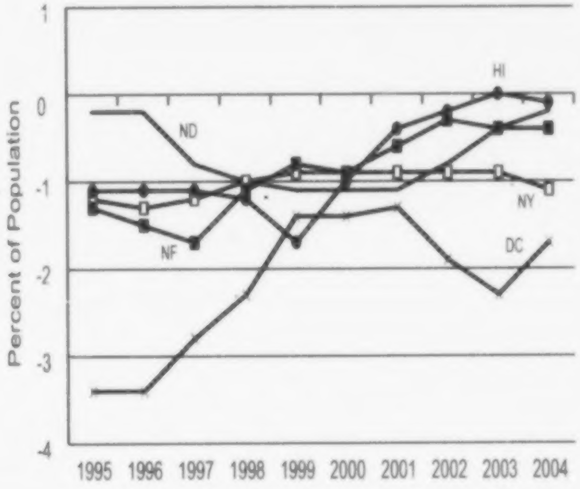
British Columbia placed 22nd among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2004. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2003 to 2004 net inter-provincial or -state migration values for 2004 were: Nevada (2.9%), Arizona (1.5%), Florida (1.5%), Idaho (0.9%), and Georgia (0.5%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: North Dakota (-0.2%), Hawaii (-0.1%), Newfoundland & Labrador (-0.4%), New York (-1.1%) and the District of Columbia (-1.7%).

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1991	1995	2000	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average
Nevada	4.1	3.5	2.4	2.1	2.9	1	2.7	1
Arizona	0.5	2.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	2	1.4	2
Florida	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.5	3	0.9	3
Idaho	1.6	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	4	0.8	4
Georgia	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.5	10	0.8	5
British Columbia	**1.1**	**0.6**	**(0.2)**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**22**	**(0.0)**	**31**
North Dakota	(1.2)	(0.2)	(1.1)	(0.4)	(0.2)	45	(0.7)	57
Hawaii	(0.2)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(0.0)	(0.1)	34	(0.8)	58
Newfoundland & Labrador	(0.3)	(1.3)	(0.9)	(0.4)	(0.4)	53	(0.9)	59
New York	(1.2)	(1.2)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.1)	60	(1.0)	60
District of Columbia	(3.0)	(3.4)	(1.4)	(2.3)	(1.7)	61	(2.2)	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

Population Changes in BC

Between 1990 and 2005, BC enjoyed the highest growth in overall population of any Canadian province, with growth of 29.3%, bettering Alberta (27.9%), Ontario (21.8%) and the Canadian average (16.5%). British Columbia's population grew by 14.8% between 1990 and 1995, by 6.9% between 1995 and 2000, and by 5.3% between 2000 and 2005. British Columbia experienced a net outflow of people to other provinces in every year between 1997/98 and 2002/03 as the BC economy entered a slower growth phase and key competitors Alberta and Ontario improved their relative performance. Net interprovincial migration to BC was once again positive in 2003/04 and in 2004/05.

Population Changes

	1990 - 1995		1995 - 2000		2000 - 2005		1990 - 2005	
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change
BC	**486,190**	**14.8**	**262,194**	**6.9**	**215,324**	**5.3**	**963,708**	**29.3**
AB	187,349	7.4	270,425	9.9	251,876	8.4	709,650	27.9
ON	652,101	6.3	735,404	6.7	856,030	7.3	2,243,535	21.8
QC	215,570	3.1	137,583	1.9	241,117	3.3	594,270	8.5
Canada	1,604,561	5.8	1,386,944	4.7	1,581,472	5.2	4,572,977	16.5

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada **Note**: The full table is available in Appendix D

Although BC's population grew in every year between 1990 and 2004, some BC regions have seen population outflows recently. Three out of eight Development Regions experienced absolute population declines during 1997 through 2004. The North Coast declined the most, registering an 8.2% drop, while the Mainland-Southwest grew by 9.2% and the Thompson-Okanagan grew by 5.7%. This contrasts with positive – though uneven – population growth in all eight Development Regions between 1990 and 1997, ranging from more than 22% in the Mainland-Southwest and Thompson-Okanagan to a low of 5.6% in the North Coast.

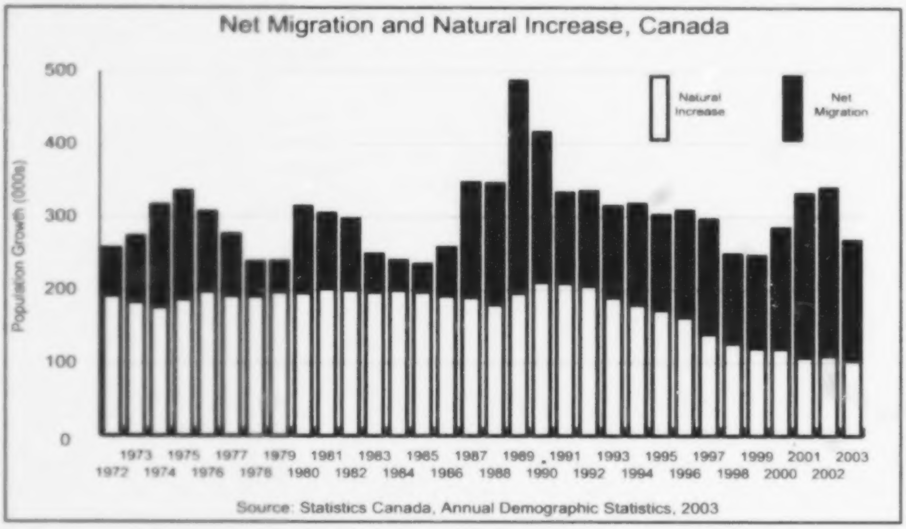
BC Population by Development Region

	1990 - 1997		1997 - 2004		1990 - 2004		2004
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Percent of Total Population
Vancouver Island-Coast	102,465	16.8	21,195	3.0	123,660	20.2	17.5
Mainland-Southwest	413,875	22.5	206,466	9.2	620,341	33.8	58.6
Thompson-Okanagan	92,438	24.1	27,139	5.7	119,577	31.2	12.0
Kootenay	15,735	11.5	434	0.3	16,169	11.8	3.7
Cariboo	19,143	12.3	(2,787)	(1.6)	16,356	10.5	4.1
North Coast	3,785	5.6	(5,830)	(8.2)	(2,045)	(3.0)	1.6
Nechako	3,956	9.6	(354)	(0.8)	3,602	8.7	1.1
Northeast	6,333	10.8	1,576	2.4	7,909	13.5	1.6
British Columbia	**657,730**	**20.0**	**247,839**	**6.3**	**905,569**	**27.5**	

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Immigration In BC and Canada

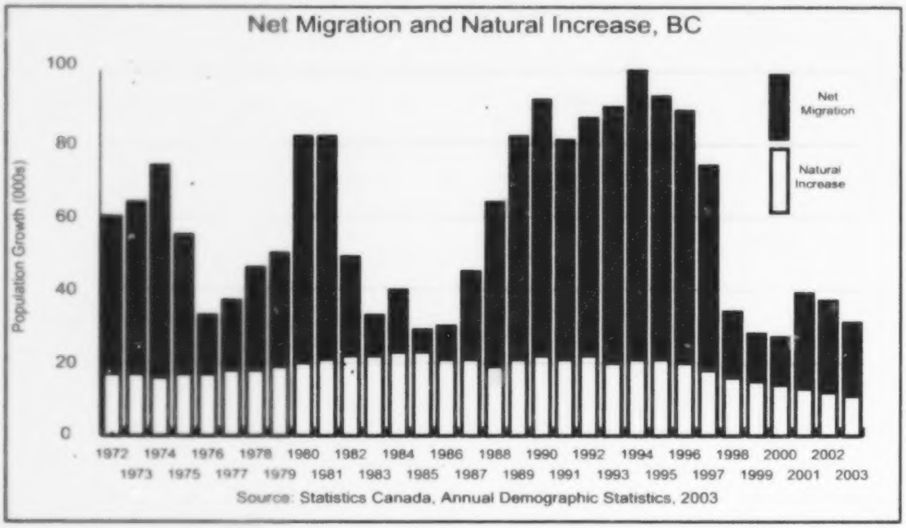
Throughout Canadian and BC history immigration has been a key driver of both population and economic growth. In a country where the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7% in the 1950s to 18.4% in the 2001 census, few would dispute the positive economic benefits and importance of past immigration efforts to the country's development. Immigration will become increasingly important to Canada, and BC in particular, in years to come.



Net Migration and Natural Increase, Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003

As a result of this decline in natural population increase Canada has become increasingly dependent on immigration as a source of population growth. In fact, in recent years this dependence has increased to the point where, in 2001, 2002 and 2003 net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (60%) of population growth. The share of immigration population growth (both international and inter-provincial) in BC is more volatile than for Canada as a whole due to the economy-dependant swings in inter-provincial migration. Immigration has accounted for as little as 21.4% of annual population growth in BC and as much as 77.0% over the period 1972-2003. As the population continues to age, and fertility rates remain low, population growth will become even more closely tied to immigration rates. In fact, immigration is predicted to account for all net labour force growth in Canada by 2011 and all net population growth by 2031.



Net Migration and Natural Increase, BC

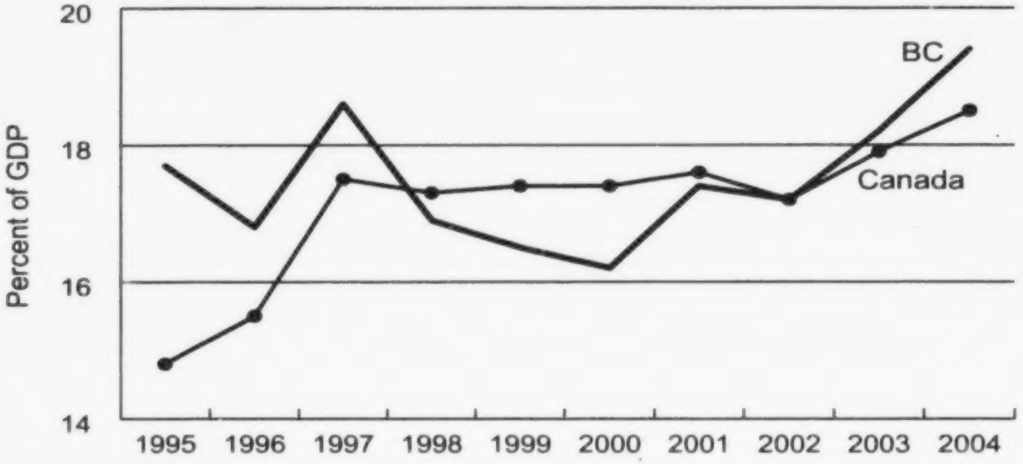
Source: Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003

British Columbia and Canada expect to rely increasingly on immigration to fuel population growth and to fill skilled jobs. However, almost all developed nations are facing the same demographic and skill challenges that we are. British Columbia and Canada in general must continue to make efforts to attract immigrants. Further, a better understanding and targeting of immigrants with skills and education required by the Canadian economy is necessary, along with programs to ensure that skills are applied appropriately upon arrival to gain the most economic benefit possible.

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2003), OECD Economic Survey of Canada; Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (2004), Canada's Performance 2004: Annual Report to Parliament; Statistics Canada (2004), Annual Demographic Statistics 2003; Human Resources Development Canada (2002), Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians.

Performance Indicator 9 Business Investment Economy, Innovation and Education

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

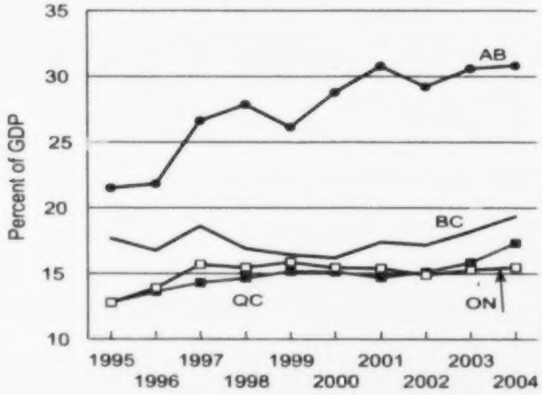
Description

This indicator measures the total amount of gross fixed business investment as a percent of GDP.

It reflects the expenditure by businesses on durable assets and on building and engineering construction. Also included is residential construction by individuals, alterations and improvements made to buildings, and transfer costs on the sale of existing assets.

Factors such as input costs, market conditions, expected rates of return, and government fiscal policy determine a jurisdiction's attractiveness for fixed business investment.

Provinces - Business Investment



Why it's Important

Business investment is perhaps the most important factor contributing to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. Without solid business investment, significant or sustained employment growth is unlikely. Periods of strong business investment are generally followed by faster economic growth and rising incomes.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 5th	2002 5th*	2003 5th*	**2004** **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 1st*	2001-2002 5th*	2002-2003 4th*	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 9th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

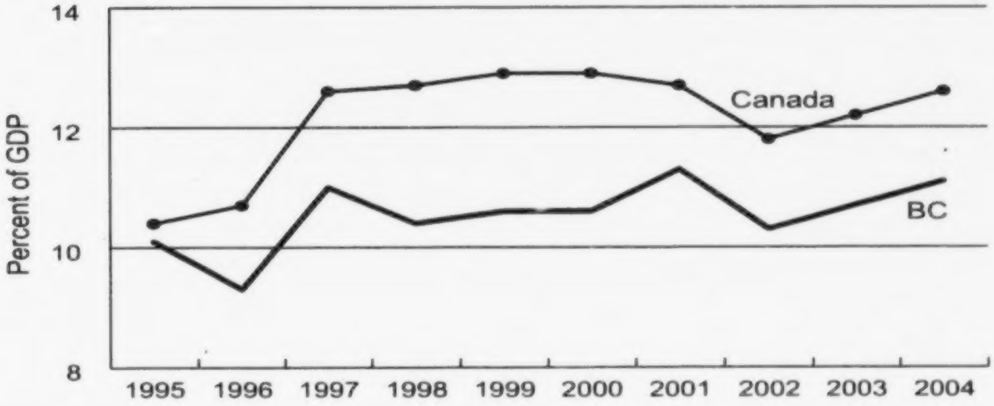
In 2004, business gross fixed capital formation was equal to 19.4% of BC's GDP, above the Canadian average of 18.5%. Alberta led the pack with investment equal to 30.8% of GDP.

BC ranked fourth for growth in this important measure between 2003 and 2004 with a 6.4% improvement, behind Newfoundland and Labrador at 14.6%, Quebec at 9.3% and Manitoba at 6.8%. The national average was a 4.0% increase.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Business Non-Residential Investment

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (Excluding Residential Structures), BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description:

This indicator measures gross fixed business investment (less residential construction) as a percent of GDP. It reflects the expenditure by businesses on durable assets and on building and engineering construction. Factors such as input costs, market conditions, expected rates of return, and government fiscal policy determine a jurisdiction's attractiveness for fixed business investment.

Business investment is perhaps the most important factor contributing to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. Without solid business investment, significant or sustained employment growth is unlikely. Periods of strong business investment are generally followed by faster economic growth and rising incomes.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 6th*	2002 6th*	2003 7th*	2004 **7th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 2nd*	2001-2002 7th*	2002-2003 7th*	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 7th*	1993-2002 8th*	1994-2003 7th*	1995-2004 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

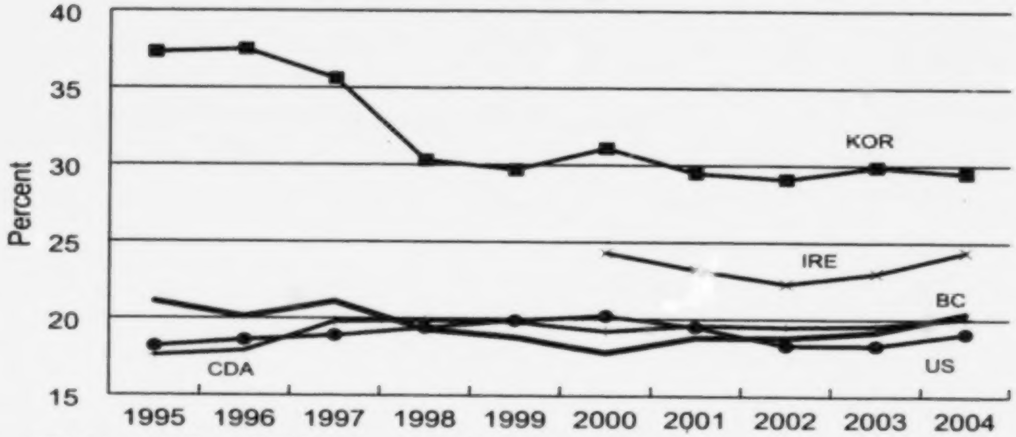
In 2004, non-residential business investment was equal to 11.1% of BC's GDP, below the Canadian average of 12.6%. Alberta led the pack with investment equal to 25.6% of GDP.

Between 2003 and 2004, BC saw an increase of 3.5% in non-residential business investment as a percent of GDP, which earned a fourth rank. Canada saw an increase of 3.2% between 2003 and 2004. The largest 2003-2004 increases were in Newfoundland and Labrador (15.3%), Quebec (7.7%) and Manitoba (6.2%). Two provinces had decreases in non-residential investment as a percentage of GDP between 2003 and 2004: New Brunswick (0.7%) and Saskatchewan (4.3%). Preliminary figures for 2005 show a dramatic increase in non-residential business investment activity.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

In general, gross fixed capital formation is measured by the total value of a producer's acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the accounting period. This topic box considers total as well as business sector gross fixed investment as a percent of GDP. The provincial comparison in Performance Indicator 9 discusses business sector investment only. Both total and business investment are discussed here because many of the OECD countries do not report separate business sector investment.

Table 1: Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1994	1999	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 28)	1998 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1998 - 2004 Average (of 29)
British Columbia	**23.6**	**18.8**	**20.5**	**14**	**19.1**	**26**
Canada	18.8	19.8	20.1	16	19.7	19
Finland	n/a	19.4	18.8	22	19.2	25
Ireland	n/a	n/a	24.4	6	23.4	8
Japan	28.3	26.3	23.8	7	25.3	6
Korea	36.4	29.7	29.5	1	29.9	1
Mexico	19.3	21.2	20.2	15	20.3	15
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	19.4	19	19.9	18
New Zealand	19.9	19.6	22.7	8	20.5	14
Norway	20.0	22.0	18.0	25	19.6	20
Switzerland	23.6	22.3	20.9	13	21.8	11
United Kingdom	15.9	17.2	16.3	28	16.7	29
United States	17.7	19.9	19.1	21	19.3	24
OECD	n/a	n/a	20.3	n/a	20.6	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (cont.)

British Columbia is a middling performer on Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a percent of GDP (Table 1) when compared to OECD countries. In 2004, BC's ratio of 20.4% earned it a rank of 14th out of the 29 jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1998 through 2004, BC averaged a ratio of 19.0% which resulted in a rank of twenty-sixth.

South Korea placed first on this indicator in 2004 with a ratio of 29.5%; it also had the highest 1998 through 2004 average of 29.9%. Over the period 1998 through 2004, the Slovak Republic ranked second with an average ratio of 28.3%, the Czech Republic ranked third (27.3%), Spain ranked fourth (25.8%) and Portugal ranked fifth (25.7%).

Only fourteen of the thirty OECD countries regularly report Gross Fixed Capital Formation for the government and business sectors separately. These data show – similar to the ratio of total GFCF to GDP – British Columbia posts middling performance on business sector GFCF as a percent of GDP (Table 2).

Table 2: Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1994	1999	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 15)	1998 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1998 - 2004 Average (of 15)
British Columbia	**20.4**	**16.1**	**18.0**	**4**	**16.6**	**7**
Canada	16.0	17.5	17.5	5	17.2	4
Finland	n/a	16.6	15.8	10	16.4	10
Japan	20.1	18.7	18.9	2	18.9	2
Mexico	14.3	18.2	15.4	11	16.5	9
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	16.3	6	16.6	8
New Zealand	17.3	16.1	18.6	3	16.9	5
Norway	16.8	18.6	15.2	12	16.6	6
United Kingdom	14.9	16.2	13.8	14	15.3	13
United States	14.6	16.8	16.0	9	16.1	11

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

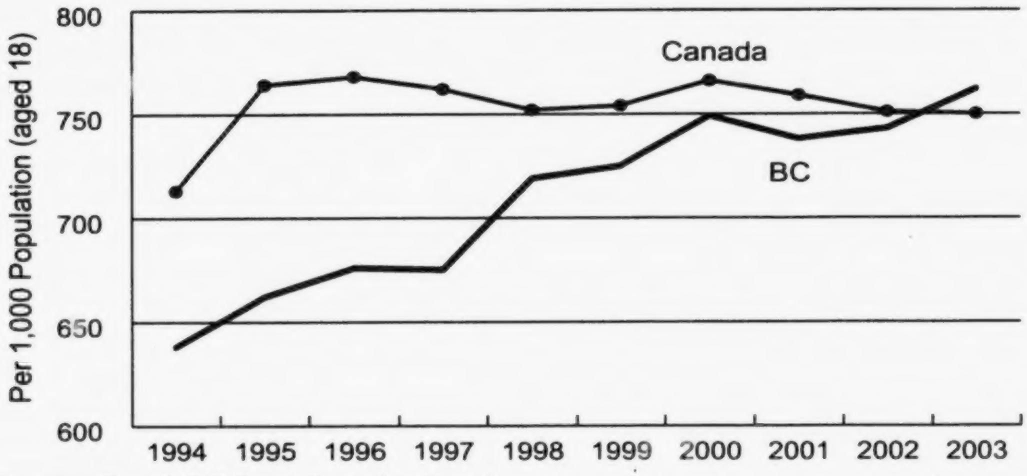
In 2004, BC's ratio of 18.0% earned it a rank of fourth out of the fifteen jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1998 through 2004, BC averaged a ratio of 16.6% which resulted in a rank of seventh.

Among the jurisdictions which reported detailed GFCF data, Australia placed first on this indicator in 2004 with a ratio of 22.4%; it also had the highest 1998 through 2004 average of 21.3%. Over the period 1998 through 2004, Japan ranked second with an average ratio of 18.9%, Germany ranked third (17.9%), Canada ranked fourth (17.2%) and New Zealand ranked fifth (16.9%).

Notes: The data discussed in this international comparison differ from that presented in the Canadian comparisons. The OECD calculates this ratio using nominal data while Performance Indicator 9 makes use of real data. See Appendix C for more information.

Performance Indicator 10 Secondary School Graduates Economy, Innovation and Education

Secondary School Graduates per 1,000 Population (aged 18), BC and Canada*



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

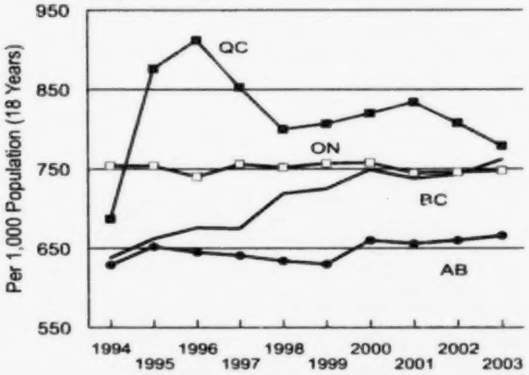
Description

This indicator measures the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 population aged 18 years (at July 1 each year).

Why it's Important

Levels of education tend to correlate strongly with future personal prosperity and well-being. With the "knowledge" content of most jobs steadily increasing, high school graduation or better is generally deemed essential as a base qualification for "higher learning" and entry level employment.

Provinces - Secondary School Graduates



Where BC Ranks

By Province*	2000 9th	2001 9th	2002 8th	2003 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check*	1999-2000 4th	2000-2001 6th	2001-2002 3rd	2002-2003 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank*	1991-2000 3rd	1992-2001 3rd	1993-2002 3rd	1994-2003 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?*

In 1994, BC had the second lowest number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 population aged 18 years, at 638. New Brunswick was first at 847, followed by Prince Edward Island at 811 graduates per 1,000 18 year olds; the Canadian average was 713.

By 2003, the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 18 year olds in BC had grown by 19.5% to 762, the largest increase in Canada. Quebec had 13.4% growth (from 687 to 779) and Nova Scotia had 10.1% growth (from 734 to 808).

In 2003, Alberta had 666 secondary school graduates for every 1,000 18 year olds, Ontario had an estimated* 748 and the estimated* Canadian average was 750.

Notes: There may be slight variations between graduation rates contained in this report and those reported by provincial Ministries of Education. Data used in this indicator are made comparable across jurisdictions by Statistics Canada. *Due to data unavailability, Ontario's and therefore Canada's values for 2002 and 2003 had to be estimated. Estimates were included to maintain consistency with the treatment of other indicators, i.e., ranked out of 10, not 9.

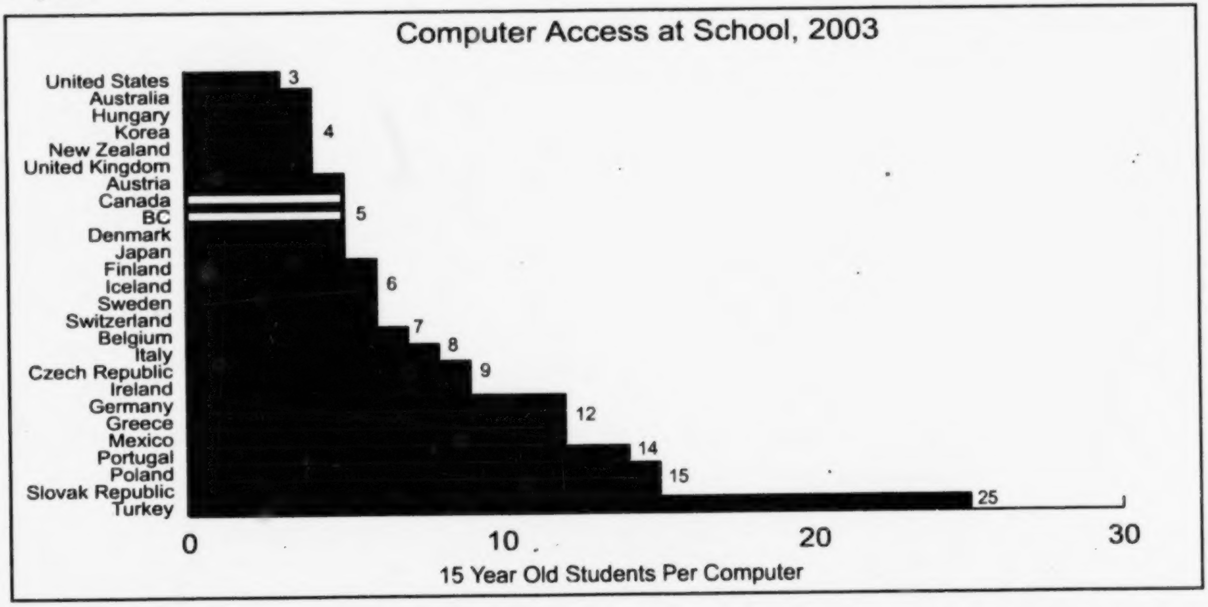
NEW

Performance Indicator **10** Supplemental Information: International Comparison

Education and Technology: Access To Computers at School

In today's technologically dependent, knowledge-based marketplace, basic computer skills have increasingly become a necessary part of basic K-12 education. An important step to gaining computer literacy is the ability to access and use computers at school. One method of comparing access to computers across jurisdictions is using the ratio of students per available computer.

Using data from the 2003 OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Canada is tied for third rank in computer accessibility, with five 15-year-old students per school computer. Ahead of Canada is the top-ranked United States, with three students per computer, and five countries – Australia, Hungary, Korea, New Zealand and the United Kingdom – with four 15-year-old students per available computer. Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Finland and Switzerland all rank below Canada, at six students per computer. Turkey places a distant last at 25 students per computer.


Computer Access at School, 2003

Statistics Canada compares provinces looking at the student-to-computer ratio for children in both elementary and secondary schools combined. Interprovincially, BC ranks 7th, right at the Canadian average of 5.0 students per computer. Statistics Canada notes that the ratios are higher for large and/or urban schools, which make up the majority of the schools in BC and Ontario (ranked 9th). Top ranked Manitoba and Saskatchewan (3.6 and 3.7 students per computer, respectively) reflect primarily rural school populations. Out of the schools that were mainly urban, only Alberta ranked above BC, at 4.1 students per computer.

Sources: OECD, Education Policy Analysis 2004, June 2005; Statistics Canada Connectivity and ICT integration in Canadian Elementary and Secondary Schools, June 2004 and Connectivity and Learning in Canada's Schools, September 2004.
Notes: The OECD uses the mean number of students per computer, while the Statistics Canada data represents the median number. The mean is the average, while the median represents the number in the mid-point of a set of data therefore, a median is less sensitive than a mean to extreme figures on either end of the array of data. For Canada, the mean and median were both 5 students per computer.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Results

British Columbia's Ministry of Education conducts the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), an annual province-wide assessment of students' reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy skills. The main purpose of the FSA is to help the province, school districts, schools, and school planning councils evaluate how well foundation skills are being taught and to make plans to improve student achievement. The FSA also provides teachers, students, and parents or guardians with external information about student performance, and a consistent measurement framework of how schools, school districts and the province are improving over time.

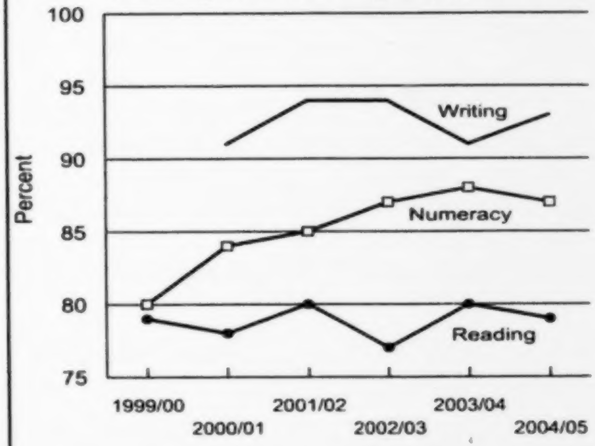
In 2004/05, 79% of grade four and 77% of grade seven students met or exceeded expectations in reading comprehension. Meanwhile, 93% of grade four students and 90% of grade seven students met expectations in writing, and 87% of grade fours and 83% of grade sevens met or exceeded expectations in numeracy.

Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations, percent

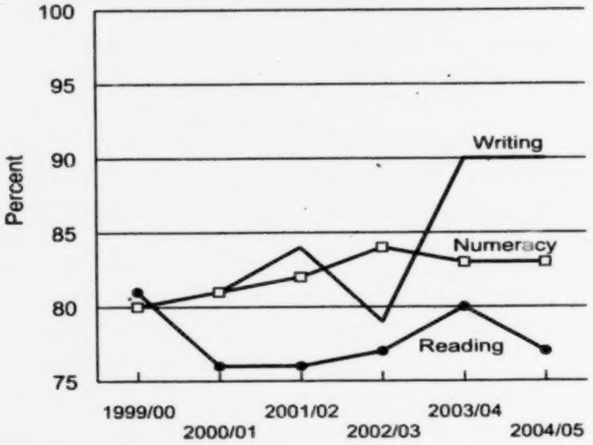
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2004/05
Grade 4	Meeting or Exceeding						Exceeding
Reading Comprehension	79	78	80	77	80	79	7
Writing	n/a	91	94	94	91	93	2
Numeracy	80	84	85	87	88	87	14
Grade 7	Meeting or Exceeding						Exceeding
Reading Comprehension	81	76	76	77	80	77	10
Writing	n/a	81	84	79	90	90	1
Numeracy	80	81	82	84	83	83	11

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2004/05 Foundation Skills Assessment, Provincial Results Report, September, 2005

FSA Results - Grade 4 Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



FSA Results - Grade 7 Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



Source: BC Ministry of Education, Information Department, 2004/05 Foundation Skills Assessment, Provincial Results Report, September 2005. **Note:** Grade 10 students are no longer included in the FSA program because of enhanced grade 10 testing incorporated into the new senior secondary graduation program.

Education Spending and Outcomes

British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. Using real ($1992) figures, BC's spending was the second-highest in 1996/97 through 1998/99 and 2002/03 and the highest from 1999/00 through 2001/02. On average, British Columbia spent $6,739 per student (in 1992 dollars) between 1996/97 and 2002/03, followed by Ontario at $6,608 and Alberta at $6,479. The lowest spending provinces, on average between 1996/97 and 2002/03 were Newfoundland & Labrador at $5,592, Prince Edward Island at $5,340 and Nova Scotia at $5,236.

British Columbia's per student spending was $42 less than Alberta's in 2002/03 and ahead of spending in the other provinces with margins ranging from $181 over Manitoba to $1,679 over Nova Scotia. Real per student spending in British Columbia increased by $516 (7.9%) between 1996/97 and 2002/03. Spending decreased by $303 (4.5%) per student in Ontario but increased in the other provinces.

Total Expenditures in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, per capita, $1992

					1996/97 - 2002/03			
	1996/97	1999/00	2002/03	2002/03 Rank	Average	Rank for Average	Percent Change	Rank for Percent Change
BC	**6,507**	**6,673**	**7,023**	**2**	**6,739**	**1**	**7.9**	**9**
AB	5,852	6,358	7,065	1	6,479	3	20.7	3
SK	5,564	5,897	6,598	5	5,936	7	18.6	4
MB	6,149	6,380	6,842	3	6,445	4	11.3	6
ON	6,804	6,541	6,501	6	6,608	2	(4.5)	10
QC	6,111	6,313	6,797	4	6,306	5	11.2	7
NB	4,336	6,669	6,225	8	5,985	6	43.6	1
NS	4,849	5,493	5,344	10	5,236	10	10.2	8
PE	4,570	5,460	5,979	9	5,340	9	30.8	2
NF	5,377	5,524	6,253	7	5,592	8	16.3	5
Canada	6,300	6,432	6,677	n/a	6,454	n/a	6.0	n/a

Source: Statistics Canada, Summary Public School Indicators

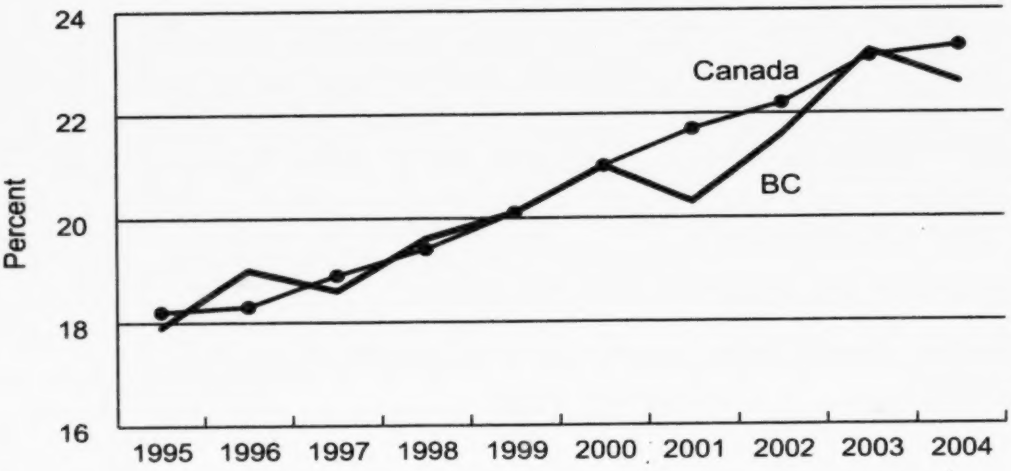
As with health care spending and outcomes (discussed on page 110 of this volume), a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending and outcomes.

British Columbia's students perform well on the most recent international testing, ranking second in Canada and no lower than fifth compared to forty countries on math, reading, science and problem solving. However, New Brunswick, with the sixth highest average per student spending among the provinces, ranked second-to-last in Canada on these international tests.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Summary Public School Indicators for the Provinces and Territories, 1996/97 to 2002/03, September 2004; Statistics Canada, Linking Provincial Student Assessments with National and International Assessments, May 2003; Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Education Indicators in Canada, Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program 2003, November 2003. Note: the data above come from an occasional Statistics Canada publication which was not produced in 2005. Therefore no data update is available.

Performance Indicator 11 University Completion Economy, Innovation and Education

Percent of Population (aged 25-54) with University Completion, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

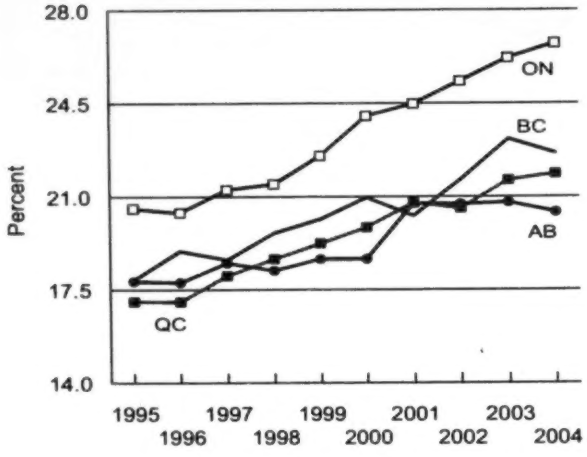
Description

This indicator measures the percentage of the population aged 25 to 54 that has attained a university education.

Why it's Important

Although there are many different forms of post-secondary credentialing, university completion is an important indication of a jurisdiction's success in building the high level academic, managerial and entrepreneurial skills necessary in today's knowledge driven economy.

Provinces - University Completion



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 4th	2002 2nd	2003 2nd	2004 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 10th	2001-2002 2nd	2002-2003 3rd	2003-2004 **9th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 5th	1993-2002 1st	1994-2003 1st	1995-2004 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 1995, 17.9% of BC's population (aged 25-54) had completed a university education, the second highest proportion in Canada. This compared with Alberta at 17.8%, Ontario at 20.5%, and the Canadian average of 18.2%.

In 2004, 22.6% of BC's population (aged 25-54) had completed a university education. British Columbia ranked second behind Ontario at 26.7% and ahead of Quebec (21.9%) and Nova Scotia (21.3%). The Canadian average in 2004 was 23.3%.

All provinces experienced growth in the proportion of people with university completion over the 1995 to 2004 period. The smallest average annual increase was 1.0% in Alberta; the largest, 3.2% was in Quebec. The Canadian average was an increase of 2.7% and BC's increase was 2.6% per year.

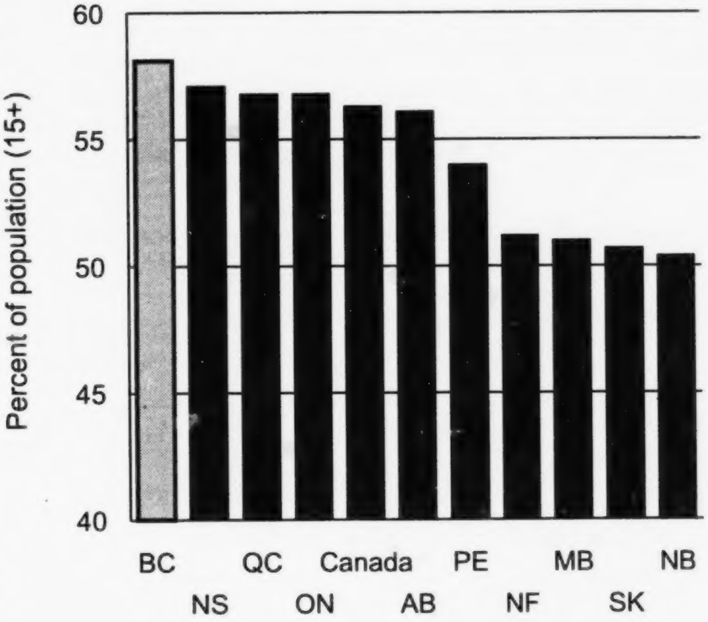
Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training

The proportion of the Canadian population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 14.8 percentage points, from 41.5 percent in 1990 to 56.3 percent in 2004. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC, but BC's proportion (58.1%) was 1.8 percentage points above the national average in 2004. Post-secondary attainment (population aged 15+) in British Columbia consisted of the following in 2004: 12.2 percent of the population had some post-secondary education; an additional 28.4 percent had a post-secondary certificate or diploma; and, 17.5 percent had a university degree (bachelor's or higher).

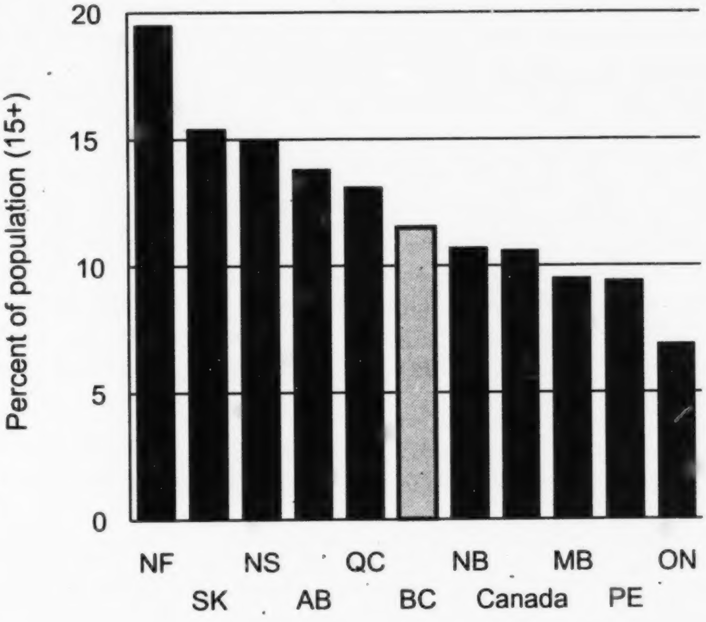
Statistics Canada tracks education attainment by province in the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Education attainment breakdowns are available for the following categories: 0-8 years (i.e., primary); some high school; high school graduate; some post-secondary education (but no degree or certificate awarded); post-secondary certificate or diploma; and, university degree. Other more detailed breakdowns are available from Statistics Canada.

One of particular interest is the proportion of the population with a *trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training,* (referred to hereafter as trades training). In 2004, 10.6 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.5 percent, which earned a sixth place rank. The highest proportion (19.5%) was in Newfoundland and Labrador. Second rank went to Saskatchewan (15.4%), followed by Nova Scotia (15.0%), Alberta (13.8%) and Quebec (13.1%). The lowest proportion (6.9%) was in Ontario.

Post-Secondary Education in Canada, 2004



Trades Training in Canada, 2004



NEW

Performance Indicator 11 Supplemental Information: US Comparison

Canada and US Comparative University Completion

In 2000, 17.7% of Canadians and 25.0% of Americans (aged 25 and older) held either a bachelor or higher degree. By 2004, the Canadian ratio had increased to 19.8% and the US ratio to 27.0%, meaning that the 41.1% gap between the countries that existed in 2000 shrank to 36.3% by 2004.

University completion rates vary considerably among the sub-national jurisdictions in North America. The lowest 2004 ratio, 11.0%, was in Newfoundland and Labrador and the high of 47.7% was in the District of Columbia, better known as Washington, DC. There were eleven US states with completion rates above 30.0% in 2004; the top five are listed in the table below. British Columbia ranked 48th with a university completion rate of 19.9% for the 25 and older population. British Columbia and Ontario (42nd rank with a 22.6% rate) were the only Canadian provinces to better any of the US states.

University Completion, Bachelor Degrees and Above, (ages 25+)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	Percent Change, 2000 - 2004	Rank for Percent Change, 2000 - 2004
District of Columbia	41.0	42.3	42.5	44.2	47.7	1	16.3	2
Massachusetts	35.0	35.6	35.5	35.8	37.4	2	6.9	43
Maryland	31.5	32.8	33.1	34.5	34.8	3	10.5	20
Connecticut	33.3	32.8	32.9	34.6	34.6	4	3.9	56
Colorado	32.9	33.8	33.5	34.7	33.7	5	2.4	58
British Columbia	**18.1**	**17.9**	**18.7**	**20.0**	**19.9**	**48**	**9.7**	**23**
West Virginia	14.3	15.4	16.1	17.0	16.3	57	14.0	4
Prince Edward Island	11.8	14.0	13.8	14.8	14.9	58	25.9	1
Saskatchewan	13.2	13.1	14.0	14.5	14.6	59	10.7	18
New Brunswick	12.2	12.9	13.0	13.5	13.8	60	13.4	8
Newfoundland & Labrador	10.1	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.0	61	9.3	26
Canada	17.7	18.3	18.8	19.7	19.8	n/a	11.8	n/a
United States	25.0	25.5	25.9	26.5	27.0	n/a	8.0	n/a
US - Canada Gap (%)	41.1	39.5	37.7	34.5	36.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

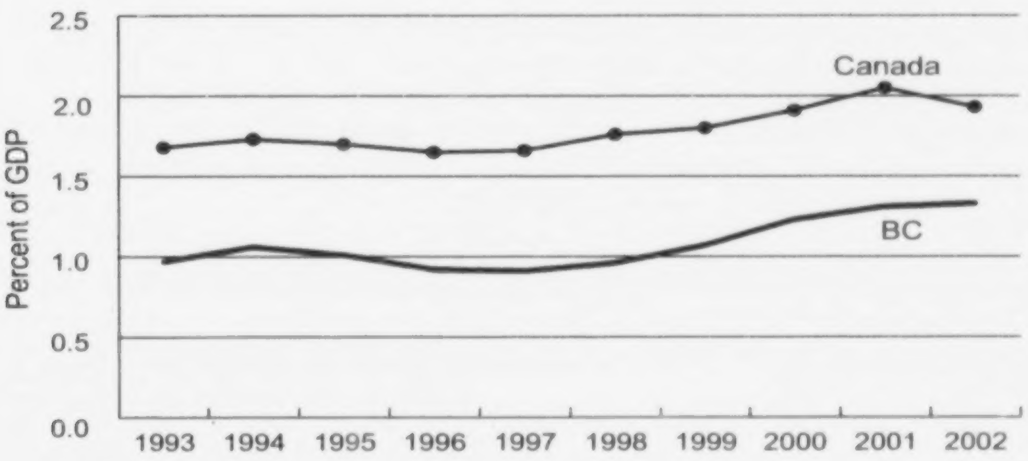
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

All but two of the sub-national jurisdictions saw their completion rates increase between 2000 and 2004. The exceptions were New Mexico and South Dakota, which had decreases of less than 3.5%. Improvements ranged from 1.6% in Mississippi to 25.9% in Prince Edward Island. British Columbia saw it's rate improve by 9.7%, earning it a 23rd place rank.

Note: This comparison uses the 25 and older population sample in order to maintain consistency with standard data tables produced by the US Census Bureau. The comparison for BC and the other provinces in performance indicator 11 uses the smaller population sample consisting of those aged 25-54.

Performance Indicator 12 R & D Economy, Innovation and Education

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

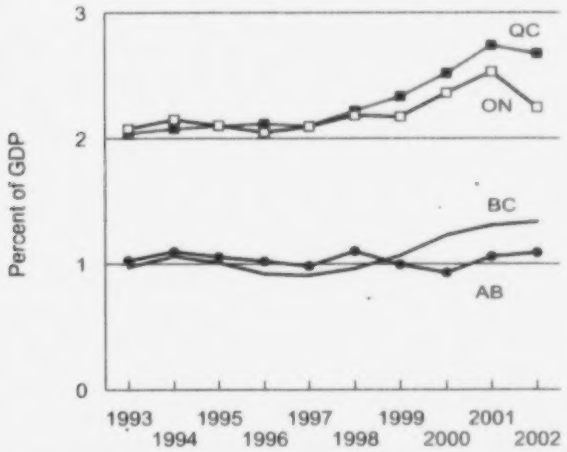
Description

This indicator measures how much is spent on research and development in relation to GDP. It includes the sum of expenditures reported by (or estimated for) the various sectors involved in research and development – government, business, higher education and not-for-profit organizations.

Why it's Important

Spending on research and development (R&D) is a key factor in innovation and the creation of new wealth.

Provinces - R&D Spending



Where BC Ranks

By Province	1999 5th	2000 4th	2001 5th	2002 **4th**
1-Year Progress Check	1998-1999 3rd	1999-2000 2nd	2000-2001 6th	2001-2002 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1991-1999 6th	1991-2000 4th*	1992-2001 3rd	1993-2002 **3rd**

How Does BC Compare?

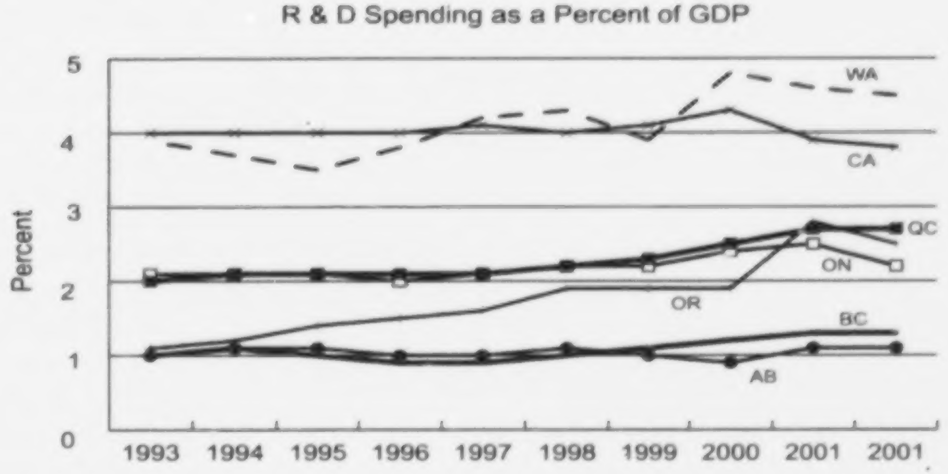
In 2002, spending on research and development as a percent of GDP in BC (1.33%) trailed Quebec (2.67%), Ontario (2.24%) and Nova Scotia (1.37%). The relative gap between R&D spending in BC and the Canadian average has decreased from 41.9% in 1993 to 30.9% in 2002.

Over the period 1993 to 2002, eight provinces saw their ratio of R&D spending to GDP increase. The largest increases were in British Columbia (37.0%), Quebec (31.1%) and Prince Edward Island (20.3%). New Brunswick saw a decrease of 1.8% and Newfoundland and Labrador experienced a 21.6% decrease over the same time period.

In 2002, $6.5 billion was expended on R&D in Quebec, compared to $1.8 billion in BC and $1.6 billion in Alberta. Ontario led the way with $10.7 billion in that year.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Research and Development as a Percent of GDP



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation.

Description

This measure is the ratio of research and development (R&D) expenditures to GDP. Economies with higher levels of research and development are more likely to experience rapid economic growth (than economies with low R&D expenditures) as new products are developed along with processes that increase the economy's productivity.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	1999 6th	2000 6th	2001 6th	**2002 6th**
1-Year Progress Check	1998-1999 1st	1999-2000 2nd	2000-2001 5th	**2001-2002 2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1991-1999 5th	1991-2000 5th*	1992-2001 4th	**1993-2002 3rd**

How Does BC Compare?

Average spending on R&D as a percent of GDP in BC is roughly one-half of the spending in Quebec and Ontario and approximately one-third of the spending in Washington State and California. British Columbia's R&D spending was 1.3% of GDP in 2002 which earned it a 6th place rank, ahead of only Alberta at 1.1%.

Between 1993 and 2002, R&D spending as a percent of GDP grew by 124.5% in Oregon, 37.0% in BC, 31.1% in Quebec, 15.0% in Washington State, 8.1% in Ontario, and 6.0% in Alberta. Spending on R&D as a percent of GDP fell by 6.8% in California over the same time period.

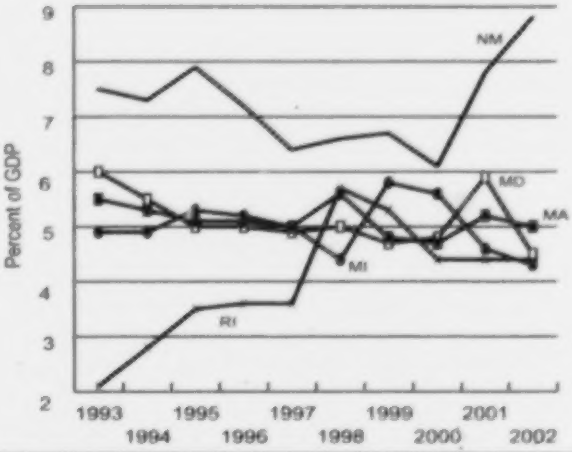
Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

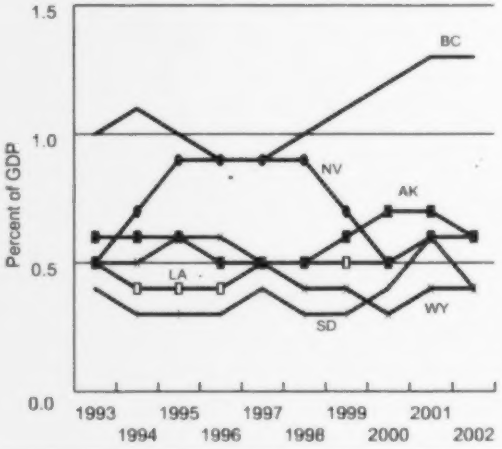
Research and Development as a Percent of GDP

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia placed 38th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2002 with a ratio of 1.3 percent of GDP and 39th for its 1997 to 2002 average ratio of 1.1 percent. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 1997 to 2002 average values for R&D spending as a percent of GDP were: New Mexico (7.0%), Massachusetts (5.0%), Michigan (5.0%), Maryland (5.0%) and the Rhode Island (4.6%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Nevada (0.7%), Arkansas (0.6%), Louisiana (0.5%), Wyoming (0.4%) and South Dakota (0.4%).


R&D Spending as a Percent of GDP
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America

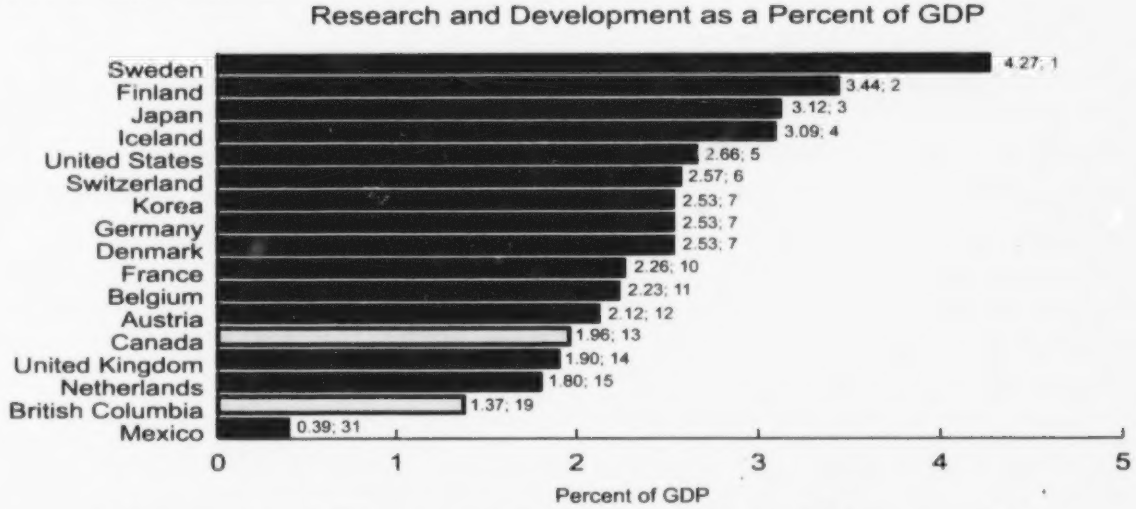

R&D Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and the Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America

R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1997	1999	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1997 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1997 - 2002 Average
New Mexico	6.4	6.7	7.8	8.8	1	7.0	1
Massachusetts	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.0	2	5.0	2
Michigan	5.0	5.8	4.6	4.3	6	5.0	3
Maryland	4.9	4.7	5.9	4.5	4	5.0	4
Rhode Island	3.6	5.3	4.5	4.4	5	4.7	5
British Columbia	**0.9**	**1.1**	**1.3**	**1.3**	**38**	**1.1**	**39**
Nevada	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	58	0.7	57
Arkansas	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	59	0.6	58
Louisiana	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	57	0.5	59
Wyoming	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	61	0.4	60
South Dakota	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	60	0.4	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US National Science Foundation

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP


Research and Development as a Percent of GDP

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation.

Description

This measure is the ratio of research and development (R&D) expenditures to GDP. Economies with higher levels of research and development are more likely to experience more rapid economic growth (than economies with low R&D expenditures) as new products are developed along with processes that increase the economy's productivity.

R&D as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2002	Rank for 2002 (of 31)	1993 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1993 - 2002 Average (of 30)
British Columbia	**0.99**	**1.03**	**1.37**	**19**	**1.10**	**20**
Canada	1.53	1.72	1.96	13	1.81	14
Finland	1.88	2.28	3.44	2	2.83	3
Ireland	0.83	1.28	1.12	23	1.21	18
Japan	2.97	2.90	3.12	3	2.92*	2
Korea (South)	1.82†††	2.37	2.53	7	2.38	6
Mexico	n/a	0.31	0.39**	31	0.34	30
Netherlands	2.07	1.99	1.80	15	1.95	11
New Zealand	0.99	0.96	n/a	22	1.04	22
Norway	1.68††	1.70	1.67	17	1.66	16
Switzerland	2.74††	2.67†	2.57*	6	2.62	4
United Kingdom	2.15	1.95	1.90	14	1.90	13
United States	2.65	2.51	2.66	5	2.60	5
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: *=2000; **=2001; †=1996; ††=1989; †††=1991

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page.

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP (cont.)

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia is a middling performer on Research and Development (R&D) as a percent of GDP in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked 20th out of thirty jurisdictions for average R&D expenditures between 1993 and 2002. Average R&D expenditures as a percent of GDP were 1.10% between 1993 and 2002 compared to 3.60% for number one ranked Sweden and 0.34% for last place Mexico. R&D spending as a percent of GDP in BC has been increasing since 1997 and the ratios for the last four years for which data are available, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are above the 1992 to 2001 average.

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2002 level and the 1993 through 2002 average level of R&D spending as a percent of GDP. Canada ranked 14th for average annual R&D expenditures as a percent of GDP between 1993 and 2002 and 13th for R&D spending in 2002.

Turning to Canada's main trading partner, the **United States** had the 5th highest R&D spending ratio in 2002 (2.66%) and the 5th highest average level of R&D spending as a percent of GDP (2.60%) behind **Sweden's** 1st (3.60%), **Japan** at 2nd (2.92%), **Finland** at 3rd (2.83%) and **Switzerland** at 4th (2.62%). The jurisdictions with the best 1993 through 2002 average performance are listed in the table below.

R&D as a Percent of GDP, OECD Top Ten

	1990	1995	2002	Rank for 2002 (of 31)	1993 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1993 - 2002 Average (of 30)
Sweden	2.80††	3.35	4.27**	1	3.60	1
Japan	2.97	2.90	3.12	3	2.92	2
Finland	1.88	2.28	3.44	2	2.83	3
Switzerland	2.74††	2.67†	2.57*	6	2.62	4
United States	2.65	2.51	2.66	5	2.60	5
Korea	1.82†††	2.37	2.53	7	2.38	6
Germany	2.67	2.25	2.53	7	2.36	7
France	2.37	2.31	2.26	10	2.26	8
Iceland	0.99	1.57	3.09	4	2.17	9
Denmark	1.57	1.84	2.53	7	2.07	10

Notes: *=2000; **=2001; †=1996; ††=1989; †††=1991

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Notes: R&D spending as a percent of GDP ratios for BC and Canada presented above do not match those presented elsewhere in this report due to differences in the way the OECD and Statistics Canada report GDP. These GDP differences result in small discrepancies in the ratios. For more information see Appendix B.

Many OECD countries only report on this indicator every two or three years. Notations (in the form of * and †) are included when a country's value for a particular year differs from that indicated in the column header. These notations are consistent throughout the tables and figures above and the data table in the appendix.

No average value is reported for Luxembourg because it only has one data point for the 1992 through 2002 period.

Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization

Universities and other post-secondary institutions account for a significant portion of innovation in Canada. In 2002, the higher education sector accounted for 26.7% of Canada's research personnel (33.4% of BC's) and, in 2003, 16% of Canada's Gross Expenditures on Research and Development (GERD). Over the past few years Canadian post-secondary institutions have also been making large scale advances in commercialization, both by inventing at a greater rate and increasingly commercializing their inventions.

In 2003, British Columbia post-secondary institutions received $471 million in funding for sponsored research, up from $267 million in 2001/02 and $180 million in 1996/97. This represents just 11% of the total Canadian post-secondary research funding for 2003; Ontario received $1.6 billion (38%) and Quebec $1.3 billion (29%). However, BC accounted for 19% of all inventions disclosed and 25% of spin-off companies created in 2003. Of all the five regions – Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and BC – British Columbia had the highest return on investment in terms of intellectual property commercialization in 2003. The Prairie region was also a strong performer – generating 20% of disclosed inventions and 18% of spin-off companies from its funding, which amounted to 17% of total national post-secondary research funding.

Commercialization of Intellectual Property, by region, 2003

	Number of Institutions	Sponsored Research		Inventions				Spin-off Companies	
		$millions	Percent of Canada	Disclosed	Percent of Canada	Protected	Percent of Canada	Number	Percent of Canada
BC	**15**	**471**	**11.0**	**215**	**19.0**	**107**	**20.3**	**216**	**24.7**
Ontario	37	1,628	38.0	404	35.7	186	35.3	314	35.8
Quebec	29	1,279	29.9	236	20.8	156	29.6	127	14.5
Prairies	21	718	16.8	227	20.0	50	9.5	156	17.8
Atlantic	19	186	4.3	51	4.5	28	5.3	63	7.2
Canada	121	4,282	100	1,133	100	527	100	876	100

Source: Statistics Canada

In Canada as a whole, post-secondary institutions improved significantly in terms of commercialization over the period from 2001 to 2003, growing the number of inventions from 1,105 to 1,133, increasing income from intellectual property from $52.5 million to $55.5 million (a 5.7% jump), and adding 64 new spin-off companies for a total of 876.

Sources: Statistics Canada, (2004), Estimates of Canadian Research and Development Expenditures (GERD), Canada, 1992 to 2003, and by Province 1992 to 2001 and (2005), Estimates of Research and Development Personnel in Canada, 1979 to 2002 and (2005), Survey of Intellectual Property Commercialization in the Higher Education Sector, 2003.

NEW

Performance Indicator 12 | Supplemental Information: Connectivity

Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide

The rapid introduction of the Internet and various other Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) over the past decade has had a profound effect on modern society, changing the way we do business, interact with one another, and learn. The pace of this change has been phenomenal, especially when compared to the diffusion of many past communications technologies, with millions of people around the world now using the Internet on a daily basis from home, the office, or public access locations. While this spread has been rapid it certainly has not been equal across all countries, or even within all regions and groups in BC. In fact, BC, like many other jurisdictions has a "digital divide" meaning that there is a critical difference in access to information and opportunities for those who are connected to the Internet and those who are not.

The ability to access the Internet, specifically a high-speed efficient broadband connection, has gained substantial attention due to its importance in today's knowledge-based world where it is now a key link to great amounts of information and a multitude of services that can provide significant benefits to individuals and their communities. The economic benefits of Internet access are a key reason often cited for ensuring its widespread adoption. Broadband access allows businesses to compete efficiently in a technology intensive and highly competitive environment through using online procurement and e-commerce services, better communicating with customers and employees, accessing financial and other business services, and providing contact with markets beyond the immediate region. The economic effects of Internet access are especially important to ensure that businesses are able to survive in small remote communities with limited population bases, markets, business services and suppliers.

Internet access also has significant social benefits through providing essential services to the population. Through the Internet all BC residents can access extensive health care information, a service that is especially critical in remote communities where telehealth services can have a significant impact on the quality of medical treatment – treatment that might not otherwise be available in many communities. Also, Internet connections allow improved access to online information, training and education resources that allow residents to upgrade skills and improve employability without leaving their communities.

Canadian Households Using the Internet

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1997 - 2003 Growth	2003 Rank
BC	**33.0**	**42.0**	**48.1**	**55.9**	**65.3**	**65.7**	**70.6**	**114**	**1**
AB	34.0	45.0	50.8	58.8	65.3	64.3	68.8	102	2
SK	26.4	33.7	39.9	46.9	52.6	57.6	62.6	137	6
MB	28.8	33.3	38.3	49.8	56.7	60.1	64.2	123	4
ON	32.9	39.1	44.5	54.2	63.7	67.4	68.4	108	3
QC	19.8	26.2	33.1	43.6	53.7	53.2	54.9	177	9
NB	28.1	31.0	38.0	45.2	52.4	48.6	53.3	90	10
NS	31.8	37.8	41.1	52.0	57.4	58.1	63.1	98	5
PE	25.7	35.4	40.5	51.1	57.8	54.1	59.4	131	7
NF	26.1	28.8	35.2	45.5	50.2	50.8	56.3	116	8
Canada	29.0	35.9	41.8	51.3	60.2	61.6	64.2	121	n/a

Source: Statistics Canada, Internet Use in Canada

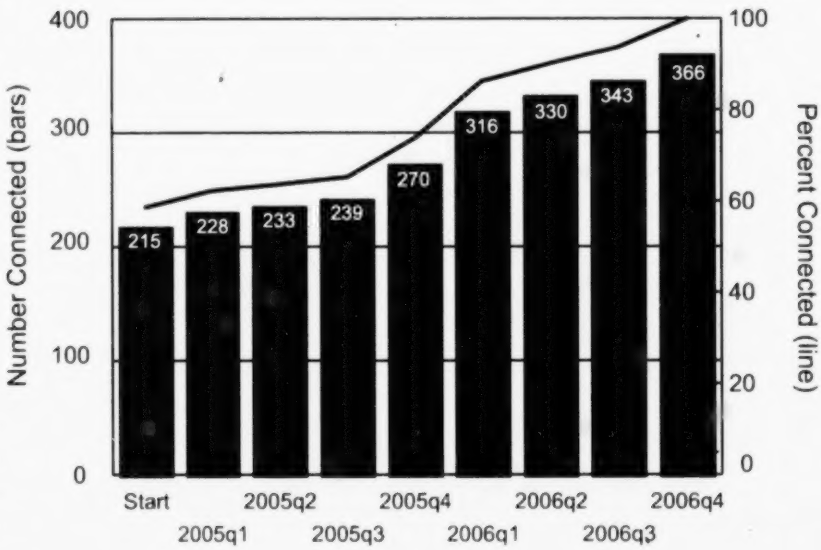
Continued on following page.

Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide (cont.)

British Columbians are fortunate to live in the most connected province in the country in one of the most connected nations in the world. In 2003, 70.6% of all BC households reported access to the internet compared to 64.2% for Canada. Despite this superb performance on connecting the province's residents a geographical divide has persisted with many of BC's remote and rural communities still lacking broadband access. This divide has been well documented by the Premier's Technology Council in seven consecutive reports tracking the connectivity of BC's 366 communities (i.e., those with a public school, library or health care facility). In 2004, although 89% of British Columbians had broadband access, these residents lived in just over half of BC's communities. Fully, 151 communities do not have access, 76 of which were First Nations or communities in close proximity to First Nations.

The digital divide is expected to close soon as a result of a recent joint agreement between the provincial government and the private sector (with selected assistance from federal programs) to bring broadband access to all remaining communities by the end of 2006. Of these communities, close to 30 will be connected using digital and satellite based Internet connections, where these relatively new technologies are already allowing enhanced access to the Internet in areas where traditional fibre optic cable connections would be impossible to install or be cost prohibitive. These new technologies hold future promise in connecting more of BC's remote residents.

BC Communities With Access to Broadband Internet



Source: NetworkBC

Closing the digital divide in BC is an important step for the survival of BC communities and the economic and social well-being of the province's residents – but there is room to improve access after this goal has been met. The term digital divide has come to be associated with regional or geographical disparities in Internet access but when first coined, the term referred to any and all barriers to access that meant some population groups had greater access to information and economic opportunities provided by the Internet than others. Using this definition, other access gaps that require attention – based on age, ethnicity, disability, income, education and gender – may exist in BC. For example, while 82% of British Columbians reported using the Internet in 2002, only 27% of those 55 and over did so. Similarly, education and income has a significant effect on usage patterns with 82% of those with a university degree using the Internet, while only 47% of those without do so. Similar differences can be found across income brackets, with higher incomes positively correlated with usage.

Sources: NetWork BC, (2005), Closing the Digital Divide for British Columbia Communities; Internet World Stats, The Digital Divide, ICT and the 50x15 Initiative, (http://www.internetworldstats.com/links10.htm); Premier's Technology Council (2005), 7th Report; Premier's Technology Council (2002), Premier's Technology Council Second Quarterly Report.

Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide (cont.)

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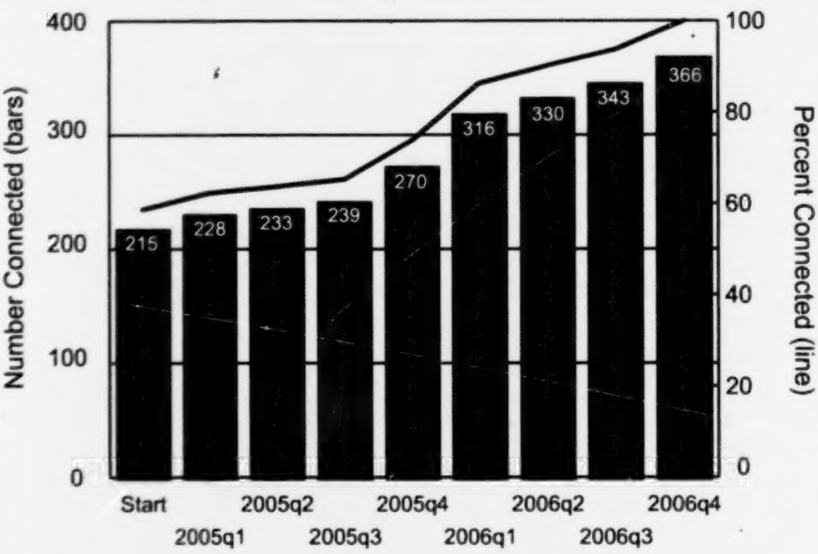
BC Communities With Access to Broadband Internet



Source: NetworkBC

Sources: NetWork BC, (2005), Closing the Digital Divide for British Columbia Communities; Internet World Stats, The Digital Divide, ICT and the 50x15 Initiative, (http://www.internetworldstats.com/links10.htm); Premier's Technology Council (2005), 7th Report; Premier's Technology Council (2002), Premier's Technology Council Second Quarterly Report.

NEW

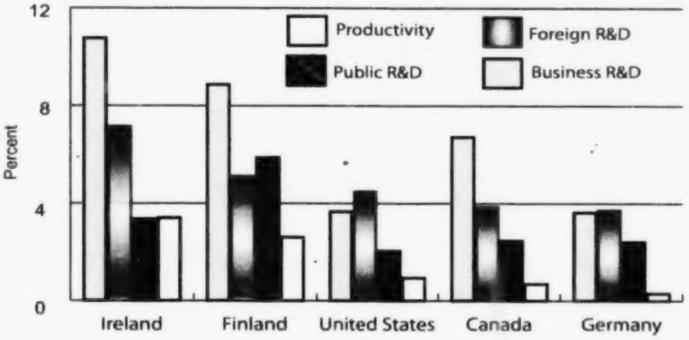
Performance Indicator 12 Supplemental Information: R&D and Innovation

Productivity and R&D Expenditures

Economic theory points to advances in technology as a principal determinant of long-run productivity growth, and therefore represents a major source of increases in economic growth and living standards over time. Technological change happens through innovation – the complex process whereby research creates novel ideas, new technologies and processes, new products are invented, and old products and ways of doing things are improved. The eventual outcome is better, or cheaper, goods and services that stimulate economic growth.

At the root of technological change is research and development (R&D), a broad concept that includes both the development and integration of new products and the improvement of business practices. Due to the importance of R&D to productivity growth, and productivity growth to economic growth and improving living standards, the link between R&D and productivity has been studied at length. However, difficulties in measuring and defining both variables mean that studies and reports have varied widely in their estimations about how much R&D impacts productivity levels and productivity growth. Some US studies have produced estimates of the impact of R&D on productivity that range from zero net effect, to returns that exceed all other types of investments. Results from US studies strongly suggest that R&D spending has a positive influence on productivity with a rate of return that likely exceeds that of conventional investments.

Average Annual Growth Rates, 1980-1998



R&D is generally divided into two categories – public and private. Historically the positive impact of R&D on productivity has been stronger for the private sector than public sector universities and research institutions. However, R&D performed in the public sector has spillover effects on the general level and quality of R&D performed in a society, and therefore, the division between private and public R&D is not entirely clear.

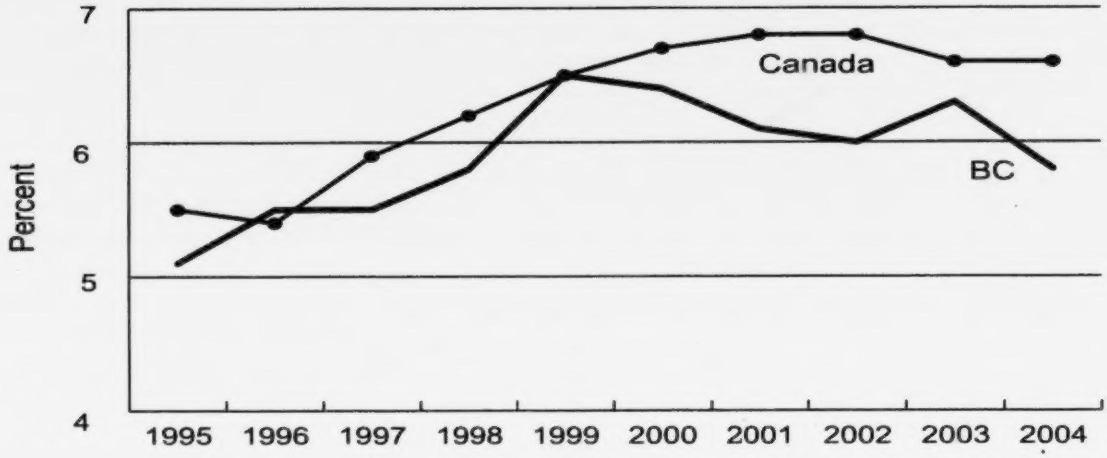
Analysis done by the OECD confirms a positive correlation between R&D expenditures and productivity performance, and explores the varying returns from public vs. private R&D spending in detail. Focusing on the effects of R&D spending on multifactor productivity growth in 16 OECD countries over two decades, the OECD study found that a 1% increase in business R&D generates 0.13% growth in productivity while a similar increase in public R&D spending generated 0.17% productivity growth. While this study underlined that the linkage between public R&D and productivity is significant – and likely outweighs the costs of public research – it also found that the effect of public research was higher in countries with a higher intensity of business R&D, illustrating the essential linkages between the two streams and the importance of the business sector in implementing and commercializing public sector findings.

Of particular importance to a small open economy such as BC where the extent of R&D activities are limited somewhat by the size of the economy and population, is the strong positive correlation between foreign R&D (defined as business R&D performed in other OECD countries) and productivity growth. In the OECD study, this effect was significantly higher than domestic R&D showing that a 1% increase in foreign R&D was associated with a full 0.44% growth in productivity. Significantly, this illustrates the impact of technological spillover effects between nations and the importance of ensuring that domestic firms have the capacity to recognize and adopt foreign technologies just as rapidly and effectively as they do domestic technologies.

Sources: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2001), R&D and Productivity Growth: Panel Data Analysis of 16 OECD Countries; Nicholson (2003), The Growth Story: Canada's Long-run Economic Performance and Prospects, International Productivity Monitor, Number 7, Fall 2003; Congressional Budget Office (2005), R&D and Productivity Growth: A Background Paper.

Performance Indicator 13 Natural and Applied Science and Related Occupations Economy, Innovation and Education

Employment in Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment, BC and Canada

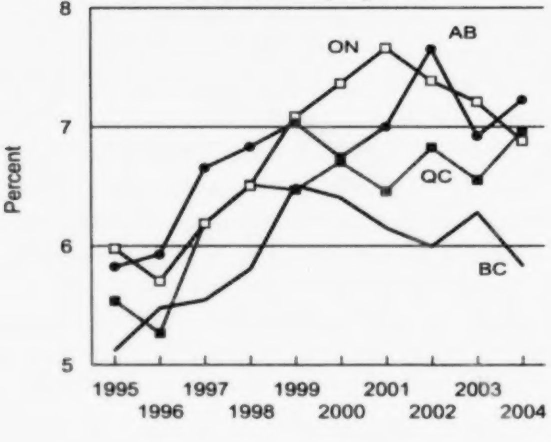


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows the proportion of a jurisdiction's employment which is comprised of persons working in natural and applied sciences and related occupations. Included in this category are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts, and programmers and associated technical occupations.

Provinces - Natural and Applied Science Employment



Why it's Important

The number of scientists and engineers relative to total employment is one indication of a jurisdiction's success in attracting people who possess knowledge and skills essential to the process of innovation and wealth creation.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 4th	2002 5th	2003 4th	**2004 5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 9th*	2001-2002 6th*	2002-2003 1st*	2003-2004 **9th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 9th*	1993-2002 6th*	1994-2003 4th*	1995-2004 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

There were steady increases in the proportion of scientists and engineers to total employment in Canada between 1996 and 2002; the proportion is 22.2% higher in 2004 than in 1995. British Columbia's proportion grew in five of the ten years between 1995 and 2004. The proportion of BC's total employment consisting of scientists and engineers was 5.8% in 2004, up from 5.1% in 1995. This marked the smallest increase in Canada over this period.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

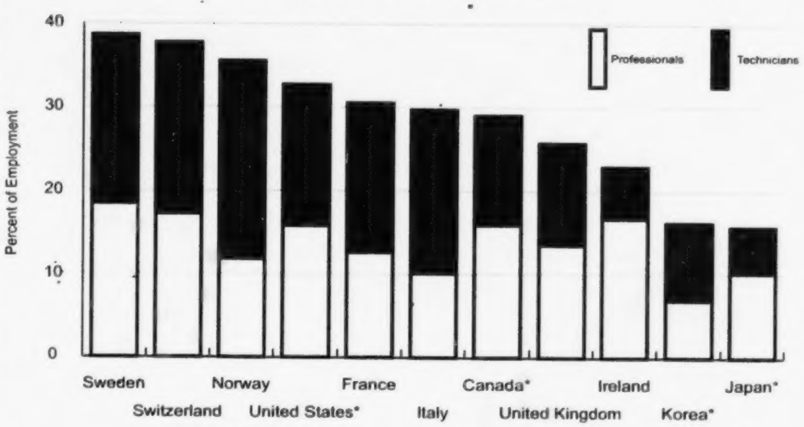
High Skill Employment and Innovation

Innovation is a fundamental driver of productivity growth. Through the introduction of new technologies and ways of doing things, BC firms are able to increase the amount they produce from a given unit of inputs – thereby promoting further economic growth. As a result, understanding how and why innovation occurs is fundamental for encouraging economic growth and increasing standards of living in the province.

Fundamental innovation is the invention of new products and processes, and is often quantified and measured by numbers of patents granted and by R&D activities in a region. More important in a small open economy such as British Columbia, and often a more significant factor in total innovation measures and impacts, is *applied innovation*, whereby new products and process developed elsewhere are introduced to Canadian industry and utilized, or when old technologies are used in new ways.

One of the most recognized factors in innovation is human capital. Human capital refers to the skills and knowledge of labour inputs in the production process. Although measuring the precise impact of skills and education on innovation is challenging, linkages between education levels and overall economic growth are clear. A recent Statistics Canada study illustrates that differences in average literacy and numeracy skills explain 55% of differences in GDP per capita in Canada between 1960 and 1995, a relationship that is three times the return associated with investments in physical capital. According to a study of the Canadian manufacturing industry, hiring experienced and university educated employees is highly correlated to innovation performance in individual firms. The connection between education and growth has traditionally been linked to those professions most involved in R&D activities, technology development and innovation. Specifically, the share of natural and applied scientists and engineers in the total labour force are recognized as critical factors in fostering fundamental innovation.

High Skill Employment, 2004



Source: OECD, Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2005 Note: *2002

While science based professions are still key to fundamental innovation, the demand for skilled labour across all industries has increased in recent years to the point where the demand for knowledge workers is now almost ubiquitous across the economy. The demand for skilled labour is increasing across BC and around the world, with even traditional industries and jobs such as trucking and construction requiring workers to have knowledge of technologies such as computers and GPS systems. Federal government estimates for 2004 showed more than 70% of all new jobs created in Canada required some form of post-secondary education, and only 6% of new jobs were held by those who have not finished high-school. In fact, on a net basis, of all jobs created in Canada in the 1990s none were filled by persons without a high-school diploma.

Sources: Rao et. al. (2001), The Importance of Innovation for Productivity, International Productivity Monitor, Number 2, Spring 2001; Statistics Canada (2004) International Adult Literacy Survey: Literacy Scores, Human Capital and Growth Across Fourteen OECD Countries, cat. #89-552; Statistics Canada, Shifts in the Composition of Labour Markets Towards Knowledge Workers, web summary of cat. #11-623; Nicholson (2003), The Growth Story: Canada's Long-run Economic Performance and Prospects, International Productivity Monitor, Number 7, Fall 2003; Human Resources Development Canada (2002), Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians; Rao et. al. (2002), The Importance of Skills for Innovation and Productivity, International Productivity Monitor, Number 4, Spring 2002.

III. Environment, Health and Society

Goal
Make BC a leader in Canada on environmental quality, health outcomes and social condition by 2010.

Targets	
4.	**Environmental Quality:** Target 1st in Canada for environmental quality by 2010.
5.	**Health Outcomes:** Target 1st in Canada for Health Outcomes by 2010.
6.	**Social Condition:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for Social Condition by 2010.

Performance Indicators	
14.	Air Quality
15.	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
16.	Protected Areas
17.	Life Expectancy at Birth
18.	Cancer Mortality
19.	Cardiovascular Disease Mortality
20.	Infant Mortality
21.	Potential Years of Life Lost
22.	Low Income Cut-Offs
23.	Low Birth Weight
24.	Personal and Property Crime
25.	Income Assistance
26.	Long-Term Unemployment

Where BC Ranks: Most Recent

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	2003	1 (1)	6	9	2	4	5	9	6	6	3
◎	5. Health Outcomes	2002	1 (1)	5	7	10	2	3	4	5	8	9
◎	6. Social Condition	2003	9 (10)	8	6	3	4	10	2	5	1	7
✓	14. Air Quality	2003	3 (3)	6	5	2	7	8	4	n/a	n/a	1
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2003	3 (3)	10	9	5	4	1	8	7	2	6
✓	16. Protected Areas	2003	1 (1)	2	7	4	3	7	9	5	10	6
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2003/04	1 (1)	4	6	8	2	3	5	7	9	10
✓	18. Cancer Mortality	2002	1 (1)	2	4	6	3	8	7	10	5	9
✓	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2002	2 (2)	8	4	6	3	1	7	5	10	9
✓	20. Infant Mortality	2002	5 (1)	10	8	9	7	6	2	3	1	4
✓	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	2002	1 (2)	6	9	10	2	3	5	4	8	7
✓	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	2003	10 (10)	7	2	6	4	9	3	5	1	8
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2003	3 (5)	10	5	4	9	8	2	7	1	6
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	2004	9 (9)	7	10	8	2	3	4	6	5	1
✓	25. Income Assistance	2003	5 (5)	9	6	1	3	8	7	4	2	10
✓	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2004	8 (10)	2	5	4	9	10	3	6	1	7
	Arithmetic Average		4.0	6.4	6.2	5.6	4.5	5.8	5.1	5.8	4.6	6.5
	Overall Indicitive Rank		1	9	8	5	2	7	4	6	3	10

Note: The Arithmetic Average excludes the three core targets as they are indeces of the performance indicators.

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
✓	14. Air Quality	2003	1 (1)	2	4	5	6	3	7
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2003	1 (1)	6	3	2	4	4	7
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	2004	7 (7)	4	1	2	6	5	3
	Arithmetic Average		3.0	4.0	2.7	3.0	5.3	4.0	5.7
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	4	1	2	6	4	7

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2002	21 (23)	25	23	n/a	12	26
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2003	2 (2)	9	21	25	15	23
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2003	7 (7)	10	5	2	26	27
	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2004	3 (7)	4	19	1	11	8
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		8.3	12.0	17.0	9.3	16.0	21.0
	Overall Indicitive Rank		1	3	5	2	4	6

Note on Tables: An arithmetic average and "overall indicative rank" are included for summary comparison purposes only. Each core target and performance indicator should be viewed independently for comparing British Columbia's overall economic, innovation and education performance relative to other jurisdictions.

Where BC Ranks: One Year Progress

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	5. Health Outcomes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	6. Social Condition	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	14. Air Quality	2002 - 2003	2 (7)	7	4	1	n/a	6	3	n/a	n/a	5
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2002 - 2003	4 (3)	5	8	6	3	9	2	10	7	1
📈	16. Protected Areas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2002/03 - 2003/04	1 (2)	8	10	5	6	2	4	7	9	3
📈	18. Cancer Mortality	2001 - 2002	6 (8)	7	9	3	4	5	1	8	10	2
📈	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2001 - 2002	8 (10)	9	7	3	4	1	5	2	10	6
📈	20. Infant Mortality	2001 - 2002	9 (7)	10	8	6	5	7	3	2	1	4
📈	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	2001 - 2002	5 (7)	7	4	3	8	2	10	9	1	6
📈	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	2002 - 2003	1 (8)	10	6	7	3	4	2	9	5	8
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2002 - 2003	5 (8)	3	9	8	6	7	2	4	1	10
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	2003 - 2004	4 (5)	7	3	8	1	5	6	10	2	9
📈	25. Income Assistance	2002 - 2003	1 (10)	8	5	6	10	3	2	9	7	4
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2003 - 2004	1 (10)	7	6	9	4	3	5	8	10	2
	Arithmetic Average		3.9	7.3	6.6	5.4	4.9	4.5	3.8	7.1	5.7	4.4
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	10	8	6	5	4	1	9	7	3

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
📈	14. Air Quality	2002 - 2003	3 (6)	6	n/a	5	2	4	1
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2002 - 2003	2 (6)	1	3	5	6	7	4
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	2003 - 2004	3 (6)	5	1	2	7	4	6
	Arithmetic Average		2.7	4.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	3.7
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	4	1	4	6	6	3

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2001 - 2002	6 (5)	21	2	n/a	1	14
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2002 - 2003	13 (17)	22	2	3	6	18
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2002 - 2003	10 (24)	17	24	19	20	12
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2003 - 2004	1 (26)	7	13	31	6	23
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		7.5	16.8	10.3	17.7	8.3	16.8
	Overall Indicitive Rank		1	4	3	6	2	4

Where BC Ranks: Period Progress

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	5. Health Outcomes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	6. Social Condition	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
✓	14. Air Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1994 - 2003	2 (6)	1	8	6	3	7	9	5	4	10
✓	16. Protected Areas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	1994/95 - 2003/04	1 (1)	6	10	9	3	2	4	5	8	7
✓	18. Cancer Mortality	1993 - 2002	6 (2)	7	10	8	5	1	3	4	2	9
✓	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	1993 - 2002	4 (2)	9	8	6	2	1	5	3	10	7
✓	20. Infant Mortality	1993 - 2002	3 (1)	9	5	8	6	7	2	4	10	1
✓	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	1993 - 2002	1 (1)	6	8	10	2	3	5	4	7	9
✓	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	1994 - 2003	9 (9)	5	1	3	6	2	4	8	10	7
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	1994 - 2003	7 (8)	9	8	4	3	6	1	2	10	5
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	1995 - 2004	3 (3)	6	10	4	1	2	5	7	9	8
✓	25. Income Assistance	1994 - 2003	5 (7)	3	2	1	6	4	10	8	9	7
✓	26. Long-Term Unemployment	1995 - 2004	9 (10)	5	8	4	2	3	6	7	10	1
	Arithmetic Average		4.5	6.0	7.1	5.7	3.5	3.5	4.9	5.2	8.1	6.5
	Overall Indicitive Rank		3	7	9	6	2	1	4	5	10	8

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

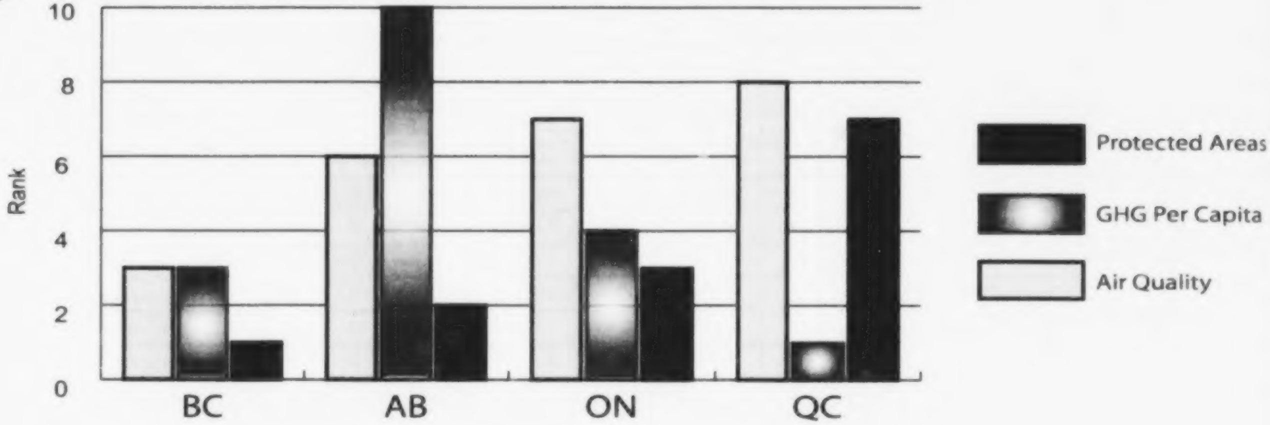
	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
✓	14. Air Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	1994 - 2003	3 (6)	5	1	2	6	7	4
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	1995 - 2004	5 (4)	7	1	3	6	4	2
	Arithmetic Average		4.0	6.0	1.0	2.5	6.0	5.5	3.0
	Overall Indicitive Rank		4	6	1	2	6	5	3

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1993 - 2002	15 (17)	17	24	n/a	1	13
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	1994 - 2003	15 (18)	26	4	1	17	25
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	1994 - 2003	10 (13)	5	18	26	17	11
✓	26. Long-Term Unemployment	1995 - 2004	12 (19)	4	14	27	3	23
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		13.0	13.0	15.0	18.0	9.5	18.0
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	2	4	5	1	5

Core Target 4 Environmental Quality Environment, Health and Society

Environmental Quality, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec



Sources: BC Progress Board; see individual indicators for component data sources.

Description

This core target provides a summary snapshot of BC's overall environmental quality. It is derived from three environmental performance indicators that follow in this report: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and protected areas. Environmental Quality rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the three indicators.

Environmental Quality, Rank by Province

	Air Quality	GHG Per Capita	Protected Areas	Environmental Quality
	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	3	3	1	1
AB	6	10	2	6
SK	5	9	7	9
MB	2	5	4	2
ON	7	4	3	4
QC	8	1	7	5
NB	4	8	9	9
NS	n/a	7	5	6
PE	n/a	2	10	6
NF	1	6	6	3

Why it's Important

Environmental quality has both direct and indirect consequences for human health and quality of life.

Where BC Ranks

	2000	2001	2002	2003
By Province	1st	1st	1st	**1st**

How Does BC Compare?

Overall, BC ranked first in Canada on environmental quality, buoyed by a strong showing on the air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and protected areas performance indicators.

Manitoba ranked second for environmental quality, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Quebec. Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island tied for the sixth, seventh and eighth place ranks. Alberta's overall rank is strongly affected by its high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick tied for the worst overall rank. Saskatchewan's best individual rank was fifth on air quality and New Brunswick's best was fourth on air quality.

Notes: The Environmental Quality core target was developed because the Progress Board was unable to identify a single measure that adequately encapsulates overall environmental quality. Should a more scientifically robust indicator for overall environmental quality become available, the Board will revise this target measure. The Environmental Quality ranks for Nova Scotia and PEI are the arithmetic average of ranks for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Protected Areas only. Wastewater treatment has been dropped as a component of this index because of data quality issues.

Limited update. New data are **not** available but supplemental information has been revised.

Core Target 4 Supplemental Information: Additional Environmental Measures

Additional Environmental Measures

The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. For this reason, the Progress Board uses an index to measure environmental quality in its core measurement framework based on indicators available across provincial boundaries. To supplement our core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it (urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita and protected areas) a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance.

Air Quality Measures – One of the most commonly used environmental indicators is air quality, as measurement and analysis is both simple and cost effective relative to most other environmental indicators. Air quality is generally measured in terms of the size and amount of particulate matter in the air. This matter is produced by the burning of fossil fuels and combustion engines and most commonly seen in the environment in the form of smoke or smog, can pose a significant health risk to humans when breathed in large quantities.

Particulate matter based air quality measures provide an excellent method of benchmarking pollution levels, both between jurisdictions and across time. Such measures have begun to illustrate that air quality in many regions in North America is in fact improving. However, while traditional air quality measures may be improving, questions frequently arise regarding their reliability. Air quality measurements are extremely vulnerable to measurement bias. For example, a measure taken upwind of an industrial area or in a rural location will appear much more favourable than one taken elsewhere. And as the types of industry – and the pollutants they release – change over time and between jurisdictions, the continued relevance of focusing on particulate matter-based measures is questioned.

While air quality measures continue to be extremely valuable indicators, it is necessary to pay careful attention to where, and how it is being measured before making firm claims about overall air quality improvements. Using additional measures of air quality to enhance the information provided by traditional particulate matter statistics also provide a more comprehensive view of the current quality of the air we breathe. Measures such as mercury, ground-level ozone, nitrogen oxide, climate change trends and carbon monoxide are all valuable indicators that are gaining acceptance and will help to provide a more comprehensive environmental snapshot. Unfortunately, widespread measurement continues to be restricted both by data collection challenges and costs.

Water Quality Measures – Assessing water quality attempts to provide a comprehensive picture of the overall state of the environment, and especially in determining the effects that industrial pollutants, pesticides, fertilizers, and wastewater are having on our environment and health. Adequate supplies of clean water are a necessity for the health of British Columbians and industries such as tourism, recreation, agriculture, and fisheries. A variety of water quality related measures are available to monitor water sources including, among others: measurements of the amount of wastewater treated in a jurisdiction to reduce environmental stress; number of boiled water advisories issued in response to contamination threats; waterborne human disease outbreaks caused by parasites; changes in groundwater levels; extent and/or alteration of freshwater ecosystems; sea surface temperature; clarity; changing stream flows; and, withdrawals for human use.

Land Quality Measures – Land-based environmental measures are a final important component in ensuring overall environmental quality. Indicators include changes in total areas of cropland, forest, grasslands and wetlands; species at risk; forest age; forest disturbances including fire frequency, insects, and disease; timber growth and harvest; cattle production; agricultural inputs and outputs including pesticides and fertilizers; industrial toxic waste releases; municipal waste; soil biological condition; and, near surface temperature, an indicator of climate change.

Despite the variety of potential measures available to expand current environmental reporting, the majority continue to face ongoing measurement and collection challenges. To allow comprehensive environmental reporting over time and across jurisdictions, problems of inadequate

Continued on following page.

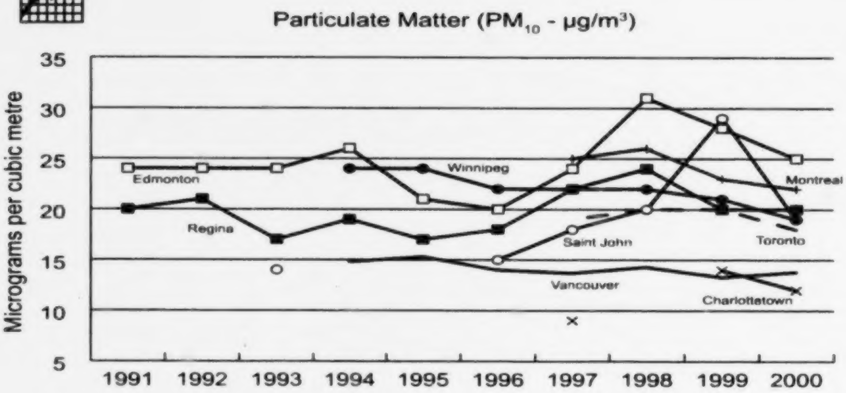
Additional Environmental Measures (cont.)

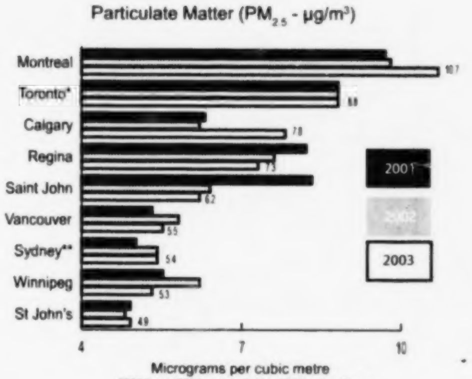
and incomplete data, specific measurement definitions, and measurement techniques must be effectively addressed. Some detailed information and actual measures – beyond the cross-jurisdictional indicators within our core reporting framework – are included in the table below.

Supplemental Environmental Statistics	
Air Quality	
Ground Level Ozone	Formed when nitrogen oxides react with natural factors, ground level ozone can damage lung tissue and mucous membranes as well as reduce crop yields. While Smithers and Hope had the highest levels in the 1998-2000 period, no BC location exceeded the 65 ppb national standard.
Climate Change	Data for the past 100 years illustrate change of 0.5°C to 0.6°C in Coastal BC (at the global average) with warming of 1.1°C in the Central and Southern Interior region (twice the global average). Effects of continued warming trends may include warmer coastal waters, less snow pack, disruption in migration and spawning patterns, and species redistribution.
Water Quality	
Water Quality Index	The Water Quality Index ranks bodies of water against a set of objectives set by the province that take into account user needs and demands (human and other organisms). Rankings against these objectives range from Excellent (close to natural) to Poor (most uses threatened, impaired or lost). Of 46 monitored bodies: 20 rated as Excellent; 7 as Good; 7 as Fair; 4 as Marginal (borderline); and, 8 as Poor.
Per Capita Municipal Water Use	British Columbians average water use was 678 litres per person per day in 1999, down 60% from 1983 but slightly above the Canadian average of 638 litres/day and well over Canada's lowest users, the Prairie provinces at 492 litres/day. Approximately 65% of domestic water use occurs in the bathroom. Communities that paid a flat rate used 15% more water than those paying on volume.
Land Quality	
Municipal Solid Waste	In 2002 British Columbians generated 936 kg of non-hazardous solid waste per person, making BC the fourth lowest generator. BC's rate of diversion, the proportion of generated waste which is recycled off-site, was 29% in 2002, second only to Nova Scotia's 30%.
On-site Toxic Substance Releases	The majority of toxic waste releases in BC in 2000 were to land – 82% was injected underground (1% on land), with the remainder released equally to water and air. BC's on-site releases (primarily hydrogen sulphide) are the largest in Canada accounting for 33% of total Canadian releases at 122,078 tonnes.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (now part of the Ministry of Environment), Environmental Trends in British Columbia, 2002; Environment Canada; Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors 2002; Canadian Institute for Climate Studies. **Notes:** With the assistance on the Ministry of Environment, the Water Quality Index has been updated to 2002. Water bodies are generally monitored when there are likely to be quality concerns so these results may appear worse than a random sampling of all BC water bodies.

Performance Indicator 14 Air Quality Environment, Health and Society





*2001 and 2002 not available, 2003 value shown
**2003 not available, 2002 values shown

Sources: BC Progress Board: BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection; Environment Canada.

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. There is a national initiative underway to switch to monitoring $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1992 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. The indicator is measured by individual cities, rather than by province.

Why it's Important

Air quality has direct effects on human health. Fine particulates may affect breathing, aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense systems and damage lung tissue. Both premature mortality and emergency hospital visits may increase during times of high concentrations of fine particulates.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 2nd★	2001 3rd	2002 3rd	2003 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 8th (of 8)*	2000-2001 n/a*	2001-2002 7th (of 8)	2002-2003 2nd (of 7)
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 n/a	1992-2001 n/a	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 **n/a**

How Does BC Compare?

In general, Vancouver and most other BC cities have significantly better air quality than many cities across Canada. Vancouver ranked third behind St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and Winnipeg, Manitoba in the concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ particulates in the air in 2003.

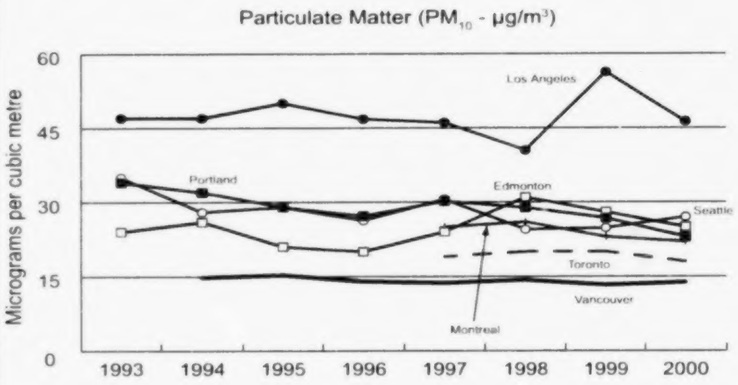
Although Vancouver ranked second behind Charlottetown in 2000 it consistently ranked first among the eight Canadian cities that have PM_{10} data for 1997 through 2000.

The air quality record of the cities reviewed is mixed whether PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$ standards are used. Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg, and Saint John show lower $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in 2003 than in 2002 while Calgary, Montreal, and St. John's have higher concentrations.

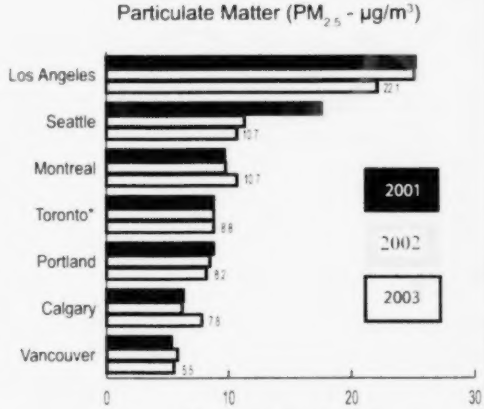
Notes: Nationwide air quality data are available for many communities, not just major metropolitan areas. To keep comparisons manageable, the Progress Board has included a major metropolitan area from each province for which data are available. Many monitoring sites in Canada are switching equipment to collect $PM_{2.5}$ data. The Progress Board has switched to reporting this standard as most sites will be collecting this information and will no longer collect PM_{10} information. *The 2000 rank is based on PM_{10} data.

Performance Indicator **14** Supplemental Information: US Comparison

Air Quality



Particulate Matter (PM_{10} - µg/m³)



Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$ - µg/m³)

*2001 and 2002 not available, 2003 value shown

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada; US Environmental Protection Agency

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. These particles can settle in the lungs and make breathing difficult for individuals of all ages, but especially the elderly and those with cardiovascular problems. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Both Canada and the US have only recently begun to monitor $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1993 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Where BC Ranks

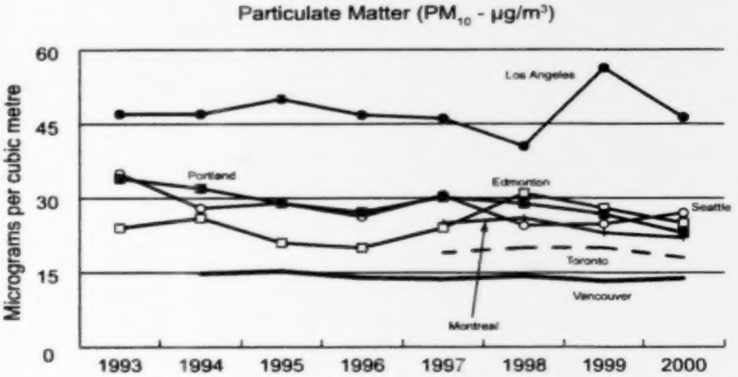
By Jurisdiction	2000 1st*	2001 1st	2002 1st	**2003** **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 6th*	2000-2001 n/a	2001-2002 6th**	2002-2003 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 n/a	1992-2001 n/a	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 **n/a**

How does BC Compare?

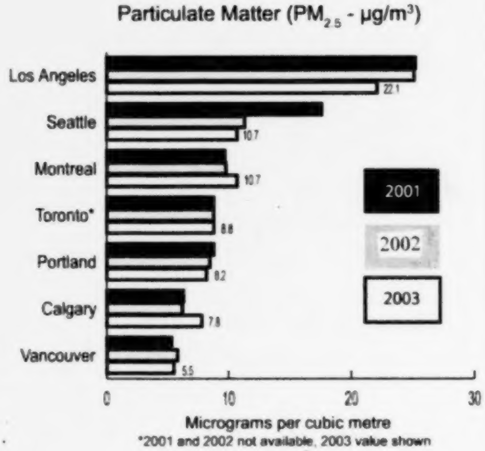
Vancouver had the lowest annual mean concentration of fine particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in its air in 2003; Los Angeles had the highest. Using the $PM_{2.5}$ standard, Vancouver's air quality improved between 2002 and 2003. Air quality also improved in Portland, Los Angeles and Seattle but deteriorated in Calgary and Montreal.

Notes: Nationwide air quality data are available for many communities, not just major metropolitan areas. To keep comparisons manageable, the Progress Board has included a major metropolitan area from each of the provinces and states included within our supplemental US comparisons. Many monitoring sites in Canada have recently begun to collect $PM_{2.5}$ data and many sites in the US now collect both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ data. The Progress Board has switched to reporting the $PM_{2.5}$ standard following the transition in Canadian monitoring. *The 2000 rank was based on PM_{10} data. **Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Air Quality



Particulate Matter (PM_{10} - µg/m³)



Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$ - µg/m³)

*2001 and 2002 not available, 2003 value shown

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada; US Environmental Protection Agency

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. These particles can settle in the lungs and make breathing difficult for individuals of all ages, but especially the elderly and those with cardiovascular problems. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Both Canada and the US have only recently begun to monitor $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1993 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2000 1st*	2001 1st	2002 1st	2003 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 6th*	2000-2001 n/a	2001-2002 6th**	2002-2003 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 n/a	1992-2001 n/a	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 **n/a**

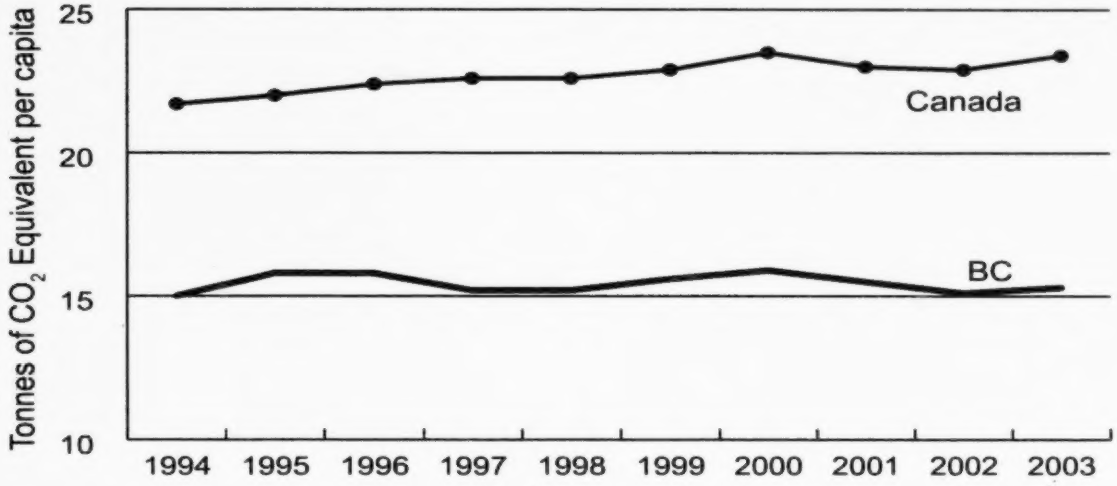
How does BC Compare?

Vancouver had the lowest annual mean concentration of fine particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in its air in 2003; Los Angeles had the highest. Using the $PM_{2.5}$ standard, Vancouver's air quality improved between 2002 and 2003. Air quality also improved in Portland, Los Angeles and Seattle but deteriorated in Calgary and Montreal.

Notes: Nationwide air quality data are available for many communities, not just major metropolitan areas. To keep comparisons manageable, the Progress Board has included a major metropolitan area from each of the provinces and states included within our supplemental US comparisons. Many monitoring sites in Canada have recently begun to collect $PM_{2.5}$ data and many sites in the US now collect both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ data. The Progress Board has switched to reporting the $PM_{2.5}$ standard following the transition in Canadian monitoring. *The 2000 rank was based on PM_{10} data. **Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Performance Indicator 15 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Environment, Health and Society

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; Environment Canada.

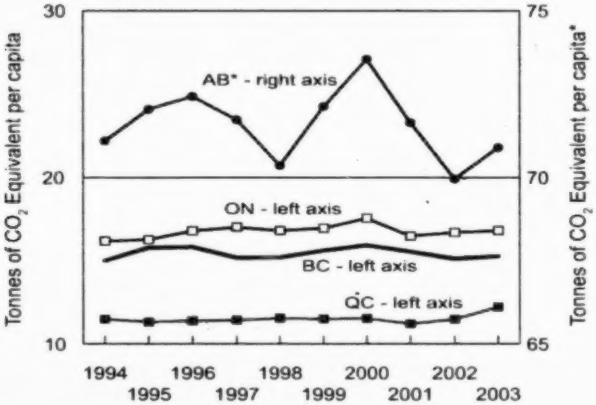
Description

Energy prices, industrial structure, consumption patterns and weather are major influences on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide.

Why it's Important

Human activities are increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere.

Provinces - Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 3rd**	2001 3rd	2002 3rd	2003 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 5th**	2000-2001 7th**	2001-2002 3rd**	2002-2003 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 3rd	1992-2001 5th	1993-2002 6th**	1994-2003 **2nd**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, BC's per capita GHG emission levels were third lowest in Canada at 15.3 tonnes, a 1.8% increase from 1994, when emissions were 15.0 tonnes per capita. In 2003, Quebec had the lowest per capita GHG emissions at 12.2 tonnes, while Alberta had the highest at 70.9 tonnes. The Canadian average in 2003 was 23.4 tonnes per capita.

Two provinces had declines in their per capita greenhouse gas emissions between 2002 and 2003. The largest decline (3.4%) was in Newfoundland and Labrador; BC's increased by 1.0% to rank fourth. Nova Scotia (6.9%) and Quebec (6.3%) had the largest increases.

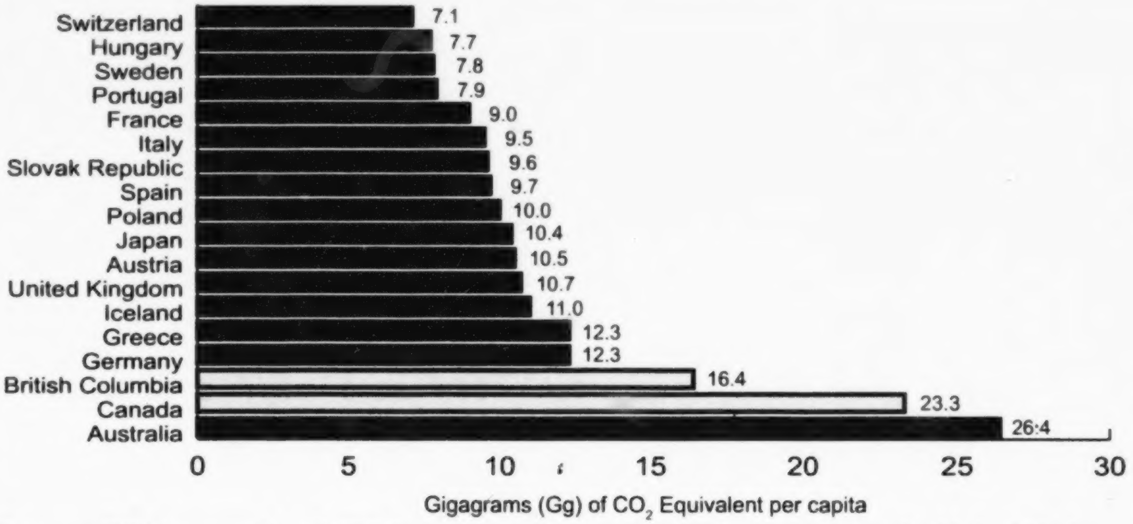
BC's significant reliance on "clean" hydroelectric power generation contributes to its favourable ranking relative to most other provinces.

Notes: *Alberta's per capita GHG emissions are the highest in the country. Therefore Alberta's emissions are tracked on the right axis in the above figure. **Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Performance Indicator **15** Supplemental Information: International Comparison

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2002, Gigagrams (Gg) of CO_2 Equivalent Per Capita



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; Environment Canada; United Nations.

Description:

This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. The "six main gases" are included: Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6).

How Does BC Compare?

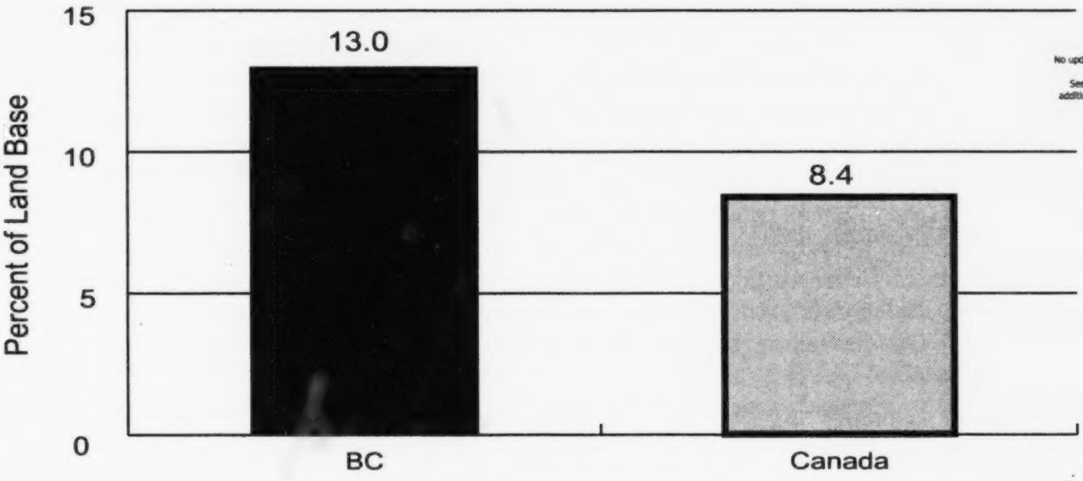
British Columbia underperforms on greenhouse gas emissions per capita relative to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. According to 2002 data, BC ranked 21st of 28 jurisdictions with per capita emissions of 15.1 tonnes. The three countries with the lowest per capita emissions were: Switzerland (7.1 tonnes), Hungary (7.7 tonnes) and Sweden (7.8 tonnes).

Canada ranked 25th among OECD countries with per capita emissions of 23.3 tonnes. The only OECD countries that ranked behind Canada were the United States (24.1 tonnes per capita), Luxembourg (24.3 tonnes per capita) and Australia (26.4 tonnes per capita). In 2002, Canada was responsible for 5.0% of the greenhouse gases emitted by the OECD countries that report the necessary data; the United States was responsible for 47.9%.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) represented 82.9% of the greenhouse gases tracked by the United Nations (UN). Worldwide data are not available on the six main gases the UN tracks, but they are available for CO_2. In 1999, the ten top emitting countries were responsible for 65% of worldwide reported CO_2 emissions, the same percentage as in 1990. In terms of CO_2, the top five emitting countries in 1999 were: United States (24.4% of world total), China (12.6%), Russian Federation (6.4%), Japan (5.1%) and India (4.8%). Canada ranked eighth with 2.0% of worldwide emissions.

Note: The UN data presented above do not match the Environment Canada data reported elsewhere in this report exactly. The difference is small however (0.05%, on average) and is smaller than the average discrepancy between Environment Canada's (EC) "sum of provinces" and "Canada" data. The discrepancy is due to a lag in the UN data and the fact that Statistics Canada rounds the data while the UN does not. The UN data for Canada and EC data for BC are used above.

Performance Indicator 16 Protected Areas Environment, Health and Society



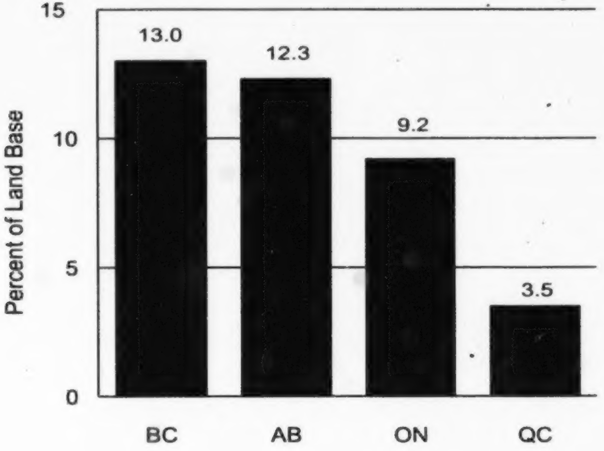
Protected Areas* for BC and Canada, 2003

No update available this year.
See note box for additional information.

Sources: BC Progress Board; WWF Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the overall percentage of a jurisdiction's land base that is protected from development. Protected areas are classified according to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) classification system.



Provinces - Protected Areas

Why it's Important

Areas classified as protected are shielded from resource extraction or human activity that results in long term or large-scale impacts on the land's natural character. Such areas are also maintained as a "stock" of the land-base for heritage, aesthetic, biodiversity and other preservation values.

Where BC Ranks**

By Province (2003) – 1st (1st)

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, BC ranked first in Canada for the percentage of the land base protected from industrial activity, at 13.0%. Alberta ranked second with 12.3% of its land base protected, followed by Ontario at 9.2%, Manitoba at 8.5% and Nova Scotia at 8.2%. The sixth place rank went to Newfoundland and Labrador with 4.3% of their land base protected from industrial activity, followed by Quebec and Saskatchewan at 3.5%, New Brunswick at 3.1% and Prince Edward Island at tenth rank among the provinces at 2.6%.

Notes: The BC government reports a ratio of 12.5% while the WWF reports 13.0%; the discrepancy is due to the Central Coast Protection areas managed by the Ministry Environment. *Data for 2004 were not available at the time of publication. Although some new protected areas were officially designated in 2004, they had already been incorporated into the 2003 data so no change is expected for British Columbia. **The 1-Year Progress Check and Period Progress Rank are left out because the data set is not complete enough to allow their inclusion.

British Columbia and International Protected Areas

British Columbians enjoy a high degree of biological and ecological diversity. BC's natural diversity both in terms of species and ecosystems, have been a distinct element in the province's unique economic and environmental heritage. British Columbia's natural surroundings have provided recreational activities for the province's residents and visitors and form the foundation of our active and healthy society. The province's natural diversity has been the basis of most economic opportunities throughout the province's development, and continues to provide the foundation for numerous resource-based industries including forestry, mining, and tourism and recreation. Finding a balance between an expanding population, job growth, improving standards of living and stewardship of natural surroundings is an important, but certainly not a simple, task.

Over the past decade, BC achieved the goal of the Bruntland report which recommended that 12 percent of the provincial land base be set aside by the year 2000. In total, BC has increased protected areas from 6.1 percent in 1992 to 13.0 percent in 2003. The Canadian provincial average is 8.4 percent. Alberta – with 12.3 percent of its land base designated as protected areas – is a close second to BC.

Overall, the amount of land protected in BC is comparable to other jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere, despite the fact the challenges it faces are greater than most other jurisdictions given the extent of its biodiversity. British Columbia has been classified into 112 distinct ecosections, including 12 distinct marine ecosystems. Ensuring that each receives some protection has been a focus of government policy, with total protection for most increasing over the past decade.

Canada's 5.2 percent of land protected is close to the World average of 6.1 percent, according to data from the World Resources Institute. In addition, Canada is home to 2.5 percent of the World's "Wetlands of International Importance," 2.8 percent of the World's "Biosphere Reserves" and 6.3 percent of the "Marine Areas Under IUCN Categories I-VI."

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

	Protected Areas Under IUCN Categories I-V, 2004		Marine Areas under IUCN I-VI, 2004	Wetlands of International Importance, 2005	Biosphere Reserves, 2004
	Number	Percent of Land Protected	Number		
World	62,137	6.1	3,459	1,420	459
Asia	3,999	7.7	661	145	67
Europe	40,318	6.0	761	788	172
Middle East & N. Africa	503	2.7	91	77	26
Sub-Saharan Africa	913	5.8	153	102	50
North America	6,294	6.8	659	57	60
Canada	3,409	5.2	219	36	13
USA	2,819	8.5	399	21	47
C. America & Caribbean	547	2.2	397	101	32
South America	1,195	5.9	196	76	40
Oceania	8,368	6.8	541	74	12

Source: World Resources Institute, Earth Trends Database

Notes: As reported in the table above, the World Resources Institute (WRI) includes only land areas under IUCN categories I-V in their calculation of "percent of land protected." The 2004 Benchmarking Report reported on WRI data based on IUCN categories I-VI & Other, a larger collection of areas (Canada showed 11.1% of land protected vs. 11.3% for the World). International comparisons of environmental indicators are recent innovations; data and standards of comparison continue to evolve. The BC Progress Board will continue to report international comparisons according to WRI convention. Wetlands of International Importance may not be mutually exclusive of Marine Areas under IUCN I-VI.

NEW Performance Indicator 16 Supplemental Information: BC and Species at Risk

BC and Species at Risk

British Columbians are fortunate to live in a region of vast biological diversity, with a society, culture and economy that have all been heavily influenced by the richness of our natural surroundings. But the benefits of living in the country's most biologically diverse province bring with them a number of challenges in terms of balancing economic growth, population growth, and human development with the protection of our natural endowments.

In order to better understand, and thereby protect, the province's numerous species, a number of attempts have been made at both the provincial and federal levels to identify and track the state of our species and ecosystems, specifically those species that are designated "at risk" or in danger of disappearing. Under Canada's constitution wildlife regulation is not clearly allocated to either the federal or provincial governments. At the federal level the task of assessing and listing threatened species has fallen to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which currently has close to 500 species in various "at risk" categories on its list. The federal government then selects species from this list to be protected under the 2003 Species at Risk Act (SARA), which protects designated species on federal lands across the country (including national parks and First Nations reserves), as well as migratory birds and aquatic species, which are designated as "federal species" under the Act. While the Act does provide some protection for threatened species, the scope of this protection is limited only to a small percentage of BC's land mass and species, with the protection of the remainder up to the province.

There are more than 70,000 known species in Canada, and 70,000 unknown are estimated. The species currently covered in the COSEWIC list represent less than one percent of the total known species in Canada. COSEWIC investigates only those species suspected of being at risk because of the expense and time it takes to classify a species. This sensible policy can lead to invalid conclusions about species at risk because a high percentage of the species investigated (70.9 percent, or 487 of 687) end up classified as being at risk of extinction. COSEWIC stresses that increasing numbers of at risk or extinct species on their list over time does not signify an increase in the number of at risk or extinct species in Canada, but is due to an increase in the number of species that have been investigated.

In BC, the task of measuring and assessing species is the responsibility of the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC), which lists and tracks species that may be at risk or require further investigation. The CDC, uses an objective set of criteria to categorize species into three lists: the "Red List" which lists those species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction; the "Blue List" which lists those species that are "at risk" but not in immediate danger; and the "Yellow List" for all species not on the previous two lists and many that may require "watching" due to potential concerns.

In British Columbia there are 143 species of mammals, 454 birds, 20 amphibians, 19 reptiles, and 450 fish species known, and an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 invertebrates (including 35,000 insect species), 2,850 vascular plants, 1,000 mosses, 1,600 lichens, 522 attached algae and more than 10,000 fungi throughout the province. In total, there are between 67,000 and 87,000 species estimated in British Columbia.

BC Species at Risk

	Estimated Number of Species	Extirpated, Engangered or Threatened	
		Number	Percent
Mammals	143	30	21.0
Birds	454	44	9.7
Amphibians	20	5	25.0
Reptiles	19	6	31.6
Fish	450	31	6.9
Invertebrates*	50,000	44	0.1
Vascular plants	2,850	281	9.9
Mosses	1,000	87	8.7
Lichens	1,600	0	0.0
Attached algae	522	0	0.0
Fungi	10,000	0	0.0
Total:**	**67,000**	**528**	**0.8**

Source: BC Ministry of Environment, BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer
Notes: *estimated at 50,000-70,000 **estimated at 67,000-87,000

Continued on following page

BC and Species at Risk (cont.)

It is difficult to estimate the proportion of total species at risk of extinction in Canada and BC because investigation is both time-consuming and costly and because we know very little about the majority of species. Of 1,600 species in Canada examined, an estimated 65 percent were assessed as *secure* (not at risk, sensitive to risk, or needing more investigation) five percent were deemed *at risk*, and another five percent *may be at risk* but require a scientific assessment to confirm their status. British Columbia was identified as having the highest number of species at risk of all the provinces. However, BC also has a highly diverse biological landscape with a large number of species, and lower numbers of species that may be at risk but need investigation. Therefore, this higher at risk figure may be due to a higher proportion of investigation and classification of species in BC compared to other large provinces.

The reasons a species might decline or become at risk are complex and interrelated with a species' ability to survive in a given environment being affected both by external changes in its habitat as well as its ability to adapt to change and its own unique biological requirements. Despite the complexity a number of prevalent environmental influences are agreed to be leading causes of species decline:

Habitat Loss and Degradation – the expansion of the human population and development that goes along with it is responsible for a large share of measured species decline. When natural habitats shrink or are impacted by population growth species are gradually squeezed out. Even where a habitat is not destroyed, the impact of human activity can be sufficient to disturb breeding patterns, restrict migration, isolate groups of species and thereby limit gene pools, and suppress natural events such as floods and forest fires that maintain ecological diversity. It is estimated that 60% of species on the COSEWIC list are there because of threats to their habitat.

Environmental Contamination – even in areas where human activity does not directly impact or destroy habitats the impacts are still felt. Air, water and ground pollution all release chemicals and toxins into the environment which have impacts on wildlife. Such contamination is the second most important factor in measured species decline.

Over Harvesting and Excessive Trade – wild species taken for food, pelts, sport, or medicinal purposes, as well as removed from their natural environments as pets or for domestic cultivation. While no longer having the single largest impact on species populations, as was the case in the earlier part of the century, the impact of such activities on species survival still exists.

Climate Change – environmental change as well as cyclical temperature change to an ecosystem or extreme weather can impact species survival.

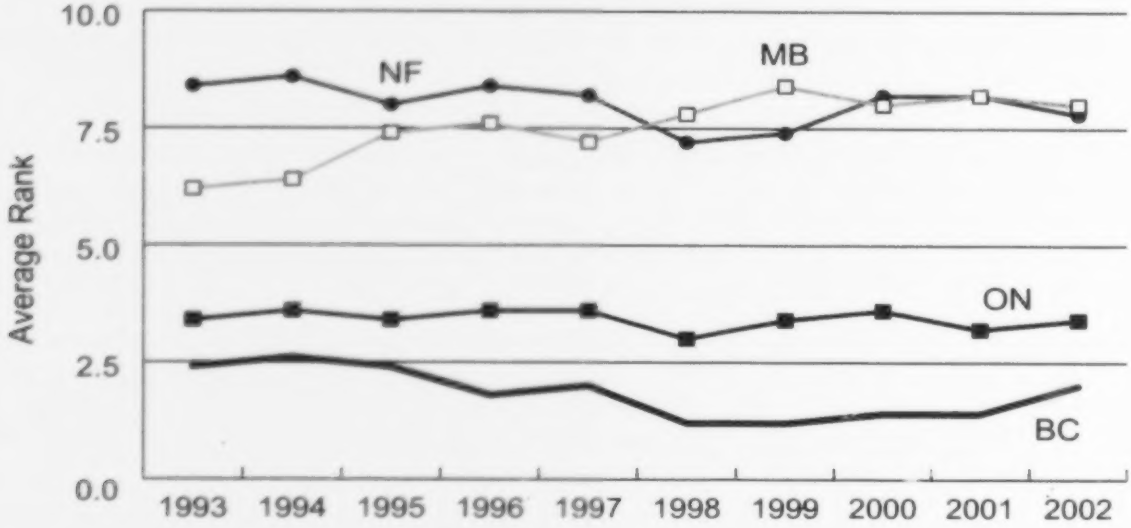
Disease – while natural in any ecosystem, disease in a species population may be more frequent and have a larger impact if that population is already in decline, limited in its range, or suffering from reduced genetic diversity.

Invasive Species – the introduction of species that are not naturally occurring in an ecosystem, often as a result of human activity for sport or agriculture reasons, can have a significant detrimental impact on native species.

COSEWIC lists 13 species that have gone extinct in Canada, including three found only in BC – the Dawson Caribou, and the Hadley Lake Benthic and Hadley Lake Limnetic Stickleback (fishes). In addition, the BC Government lists the Dragon Lake Whitefish as a BC-only species that is now extinct. In addition, six species are listed as extirpated in BC, meaning they are no longer found in the province but aren't globally extinct.

Sources: COSEWIC (2005), Canadian Species at Risk, and 500 Species Now Considered to Be At Risk; Janice Walton (2004), Endangered Species Protection Escalates in British Columbia, Mondaq; BC Ministry of Environment (2002), Species Ranking In British Columbia; Habitat Acquisition Trust website FAQ; Environment Canada, Why Do Some Species Become at Risk in Canada?; The Canadian Biodiversity Website, Human Activities and Their Impacts and Conservation Priorities; BC Ministry of Environment, What are The Threats to Species at Risk?; BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2002 and BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer; Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, Wild Species 2000: The General Status of Species in Canada. **Note:** an updated report, Wild Species 2005 is expected in 2006.

Health Outcomes Rank, Top and Bottom Provinces



Source: BC Progress Board

Description

This core target provides a summary of BC's health outcome indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators that follow in this report: life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost. Health Outcome rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia had the best health outcome performance among the provinces over the entire 1994 through 2003 period.

In 2003, BC had the top rank for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality and potential years of life lost, a second-place rank for cardiovascular disease mortality and a fifth-place rank for infant mortality.

Although this index replaces the previous core target, life expectancy at birth, BC's long-term performance is essentially the same under either indicator. The only difference in rank over the 1993 through 2002 period is a second-place rank in 1993 for life expectancy whereas the index shows a first-place rank.

Where BC Ranks

	1999	2000	2001	2002
By Province	1st	1st	1st	**1st**

Health Outcomes, Component Ranks by Province

	Life Expectancy	Cancer Mortality	Cardio-vascular Mortality	Infant Mortality	PYLL	Health Outcomes
Year	2002/03	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
BC	1	1	2	5	1	1
AB	3	2	8	10	6	5
SK	5	4	4	8	9	7
MB	9	6	6	9	10	10
ON	2	3	3	7	2	2
QC	4	8	1	6	3	3
NB	6	7	7	2	5	4
NS	7	10	5	3	4	5
PE	8	5	10	1	8	8
NF	10	9	9	4	7	9

Source: BC Progress Board

The New Health Outcomes Index

The introduction of the Health Outcomes Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of health indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are: cardiovascular disease mortality; infant mortality; and, potential years of life lost. With the exception of infant mortality these topics have been covered in previous reports as supplemental information; from this year forward, all three are included as performance indicators.

The switch to an index for Core Target 5 from life expectancy at birth is motivated by the desire to give broader recognition to the importance of the new performance indicators. British Columbia held the top rank among provinces for life expectancy at birth in every year but one between 1993 and 2002 and held the top rank on the index in each of those years. British Columbia has strong health outcome results within Canada and compared to the world at large. There is always room for improvement, however.

British Columbia Ranks on Health Index Components

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Worst Rank, 1993-2002	Best Rank, 1993-2002	Most Frequent Rank (Mode)
Life Expectancy*	**2**	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Cancer Mortality	2	2	1	1	**3**	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Cardiovascular Mortality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**2**	**2**	2	1	1
Infant Mortality	1	5	**6**	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	6	1	1
PYLL	**6**	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	6	1	2
Health Outcomes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: BC Progress Board Note: *not a calendar year; for example 1993 is actually 1993/94

British Columbia's best rank on all five components of the index over the 1993 through 2002 period was first. In addition, the most frequent rank (the "mode" in statistical parlance) was first for all but PYLL (potential years of life lost) where it was second. The worst rank BC earned on cancer mortality was third in 1997 and the worst cardiovascular disease mortality rank was second in 2001 and 2002. British Columbia's worst PYLL rank was sixth in 1993 and BC's worst rank on infant mortality was sixth in 1995.

The infant mortality rate indicator is moderately volatile. Although BC ranked fifth in 2002, it has the lowest average infant mortality rate among the provinces for the most recent five and ten year periods. One way of dealing with this for presentation purposes is to report the data using a three year moving average. This option is not utilized in Progress Board reporting because infant mortality is now included in the Health Outcomes Index and adjusting one indicator but not the others makes the results more difficult to interpret accurately. Generally speaking, adjustments such as incorporating a moving average have not been made. In addition to presenting the data without adjustments, the index components all use data for the same year even though more current data are available for some, e.g., life expectancy.

More information on life expectancy at birth (performance indicator 17, or PI17) can be found on page 111. Similarly, information on: cancer mortality (PI18) is on page 113; cardiovascular mortality (PI19) is at page 114; infant mortality (PI20) is on page 116; and, PYLL (PI21) is at page 118.

Comparative Wait Times

"Wait Times" have become a focal point in the ongoing debate over the relative success of our health care systems in meeting and treating the health needs of Canadians. Statistics Canada surveys indicate that roughly 20% of patients waiting for care reported that they were adversely affected by the wait, indicating factors such as pain, anxiety, deterioration in their health, impairment in daily activities, and family stress.

There are challenges in the use of this measure for interprovincial comparisons. Wait times can be – and are regularly both within BC and across Canada – defined in different terms. Typically they are defined as the length of time between any two points in the continuum of care, but there is little agreement or continuity beyond this about when the waiting time for care begins and when it ends. Within a patient's care progression there are three distinct waiting periods that have all received some degree of attention: wait time to see a specialist, wait time to receive surgery or other hospital based care, and total wait time from first visit to a primary care provider until required treatment is finally provided. Even within these three broad definitions variations between jurisdictions and over time exist, making meaningful comparison of wait times difficult. The table below provides an overview of what Statistics Canada (SC) and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) have been able to assemble to date.

Median Wait Times (weeks), 2003

	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
Non-emerg. Surgeries[1] (SC)	4.3	4.3	4.0*	5.0*	4.3	4.3	8.6	4.3	4.3*	4.3*	4.3*
Specialist Visits[2] (SC)	4.0	3.0	3.0*	3.0*	4.3	4.3	3.0*	4.3	3.0*	3.0*	4.3*
Cardiac Surgery (CIHI)	n/a	3.4	n/a	2.9	1.6	3.7	n/a	1.1	n/a	n/a	1.4
Hip Replacement (CIHI)	n/a	18.7	20.4	26.4	19.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.9	n/a
Knee Replacement (CIHI)	n/a	24.0	20.4	39.9	22.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.0	n/a

Notes: SC=Statistics Canada; CIHI=Canadian Institute for Health Information *Data should be interpreted with caution due to high variability of samples. [1]Time between decision to go ahead with the surgery and the day of surgery. [2]Time between decision to see a specialist and the visit. SC data are based on self-reported wait times and have been age-standardized to enhance comparability. See original CIHI publication for extensive notes about the data.

Recent agreements among the Western provinces (The Western Canada Wait List Project) and comments by First Ministers show an interest in enhancing the transparency and fairness of the system through a variety of promised new measures that include: standardized means of assessing and prioritizing wait listed patients according to urgency; establishing and reporting on comparable wait time indicators; and, developing evidence based benchmarks on wait times for key illnesses. While some countries such as the UK and Sweden provide patient care guarantees of maximum wait times for designated treatments, no Canadian jurisdiction has followed suit.

As BC's population has aged in recent decades, many surgeries have also become less traumatic and more accessible, meaning that the number of surgeries done in BC has increased at a rate far faster than population growth, putting pressure on the health care system and on wait times. Reducing wait times in such an environment, with health care costs already escalating, will not be simple. A recent OECD study across member states on reducing wait times for elective surgeries found that *low availability of acute care beds* and *salaried remuneration of specialists* were associated with higher wait times, while *fee-for-service systems* and *increased health care spending* were systematically associated with lower wait times, other things being equal. Among the countries studied the *availability of doctors* was found to have the highest negative correlation with wait times.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Health-Access Survey and Comparable Health Indicators, cat. #82-401; British Columbia Medical Association (2003), Patient Care Guarantees: A Discussion Paper by BC's Physicians; Claudia A. Sanmartin and the Steering Committee of the Western Canada Waiting List Project (2003), Toward Standard Definitions For Waiting Times, Healthcare Management Forum, Canadian College of Health Service Executives; BC Ministry of Health, Pressures on the System, www.health-services.gov.bc.ca/cpa/mediasite/pressures.html; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2003), Explaining Waiting Times Variations for Elective Surgery across OECD Countries, OECD Health Working Papers 7; Canadian Institute for Health Information, Health Indicators.

Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes

Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and it is likely to continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 1976, BC spent $3.5 billion on health care (all figures in 1997 dollars). By 1986, BC's expenditure had reached $5.1 billion and by 2004 it had reached $9.6 billion. As a percent of GDP, BC's health expenditure has gone from 5.5% in 1982 to 7.5% in 2004. As a percent of total provincial government spending, BC's health care spending went from 26.1% in 1976 to 38.1% in 2004.

Provincial Health Spending

	British Columbia				*Canadian Average*			
	Per Capita, dollars	Percent of GDP	Percent of Provincial Spending	In Constant Dollars ($1997 billions)	Per Capita, dollars	Percent of GDP	Percent of Provincial Spending	In Constant Dollars ($1997 billions)
1975/76	394	n/a	26.1	3.5	393	5.1	26.6	29.2
1980/81	738	5.5*	29.9	4.5	665	5.0	26.4	32.9
1985/86	1,083	6.0	28.4	5.1	1,108	5.8	26.7	40.4
1990/91	1,565	6.5	31.4	6.5	1,154	6.3	28.7	49.0
1995/96	1,858	6.6	29.7	7.3	1,664	6.0	27.3	49.8
2000/01	2,312	7.1	33.5	8.8	2,102	6.0	31.0	60.4
1975/76-2000/01 Growth (%)	487	29	28	154	435	13	17	107
2001/02	2,535	7.7	35.4	9.5	2,225	6.2	32.0	63.6
2002/03	2,641	7.8	37.6	9.7	2,359	6.3	33.3	66.1
2003/04	2,659	7.5	38.1	9.6	2,517	6.5	34.6	69.5
2004/05f	2,683	7.1	37.5	9.6	2,653	6.5	34.6	72.3
2005/06f	2,861	7.3	n/a	10.1	2,845	6.7	n/a	75.7
2000/01-2005/06f Growth (%)	24	3	n/a	15	35	12	n/a	25

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. Notes: *1981/82; f=forecast

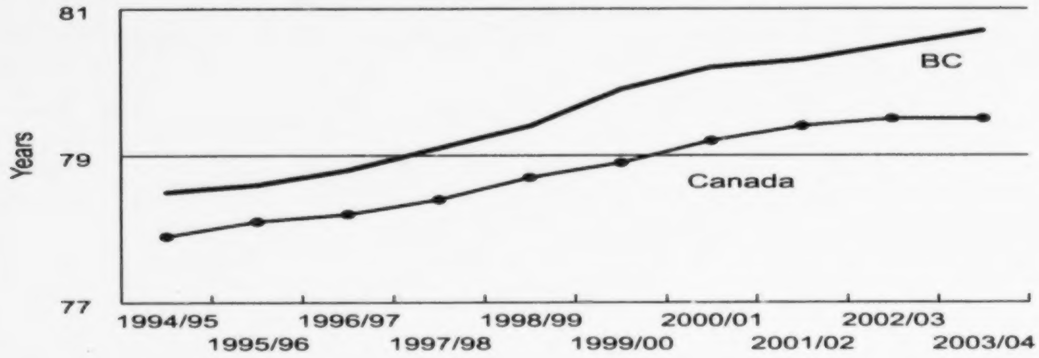
In 2004/05 preliminary provincial rankings, BC ends up fifth in overall provincial government health care spending per capita at $2,683, behind Newfoundland and Labrador at $3,032, Alberta ($2,950), Manitoba ($2,925), and Saskatchewan ($2,748). As noted elsewhere in this report, BC does very well on health outcome indicators relative to other provinces (i.e., life expectancy, potential years of life lost, and mortality from cancer and cardiovascular disease). However, drawing a causal connection between high provincial government health care spending and health outcomes in BC (and other jurisdictions) should be done with considerable caution. For example, a review of health outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador – the province with the highest per capita provincial government health spending – shows that a correlation between high relative spending and good health outcomes does not necessarily follow. Using the most recent data, Newfoundland and Labrador ranked 10th for life expectancy and the percentage of obese people, 9th for cardiovascular disease and cancer mortality, and 7th on potential years of life lost.

Many factors affect health care spending and act as drivers for future cost pressures. One of these drivers is population ageing because a disproportionate amount of lifetime health care costs occur late in life. Of added concern for BC is that the Canada Health Transfer allocation formula does not differentiate between relatively young and ageing populations, meaning that BC could be disproportionately affected in the future, due to our relatively older population.

Lifestyle choices by individuals, discussed in more detail in the "Health Risk Factors" topic box, have the potential to effect significant health care cost savings.

Performance Indicator 17 Life Expectancy Environment, Health and Society

Life Expectancy at Birth, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a child is expected to live in its lifetime, based on current mortality rates.

Why it's Important

This is a key indicator of the overall health of citizens in a jurisdiction.

Where BC Ranks

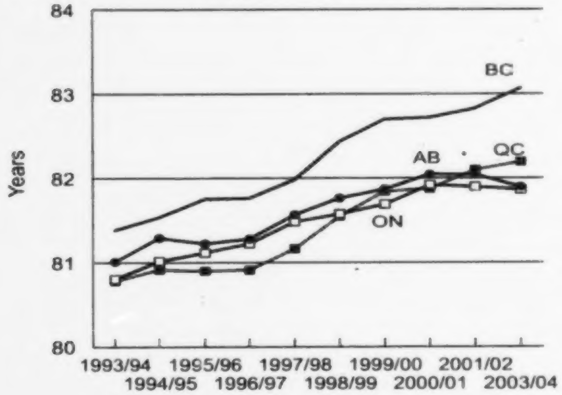
By Province	2000/01 1st	2001/02 1st	2002/03 1st	**2003/04 1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1999/00 - 2000/01 3rd	2000/01 - 2001/02 9th*	2001/02 - 2002/03 2nd*	2002/03 - 2003/04 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1991/92 - 2000/01 1st	1992/93 - 2001/02 1st	1993/94 - 2002/03 1st	1994/95 - 2003/04 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

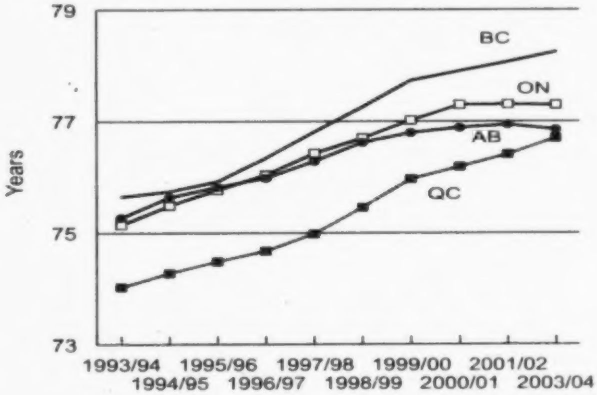
In 2003/04, British Columbia ranked first in Canada for life expectancy at birth for both males and females. Life expectancy at birth for both sexes reached 80.7 years in 2003/04, up from 78.5 years in 1994/95, the largest increase in Canada. In 2003/04, the life expectancy of a male born in BC was 78.2 years, while life expectancy for a BC female was 83.1 years.

From 1994/95 to 2003/04, the gap between male and female life expectancy has narrowed by a sizeable margin. Changes in trend lines for "causes of death" and associated risk factors explain this change.

Provinces - Life Expectancy at Birth, Females



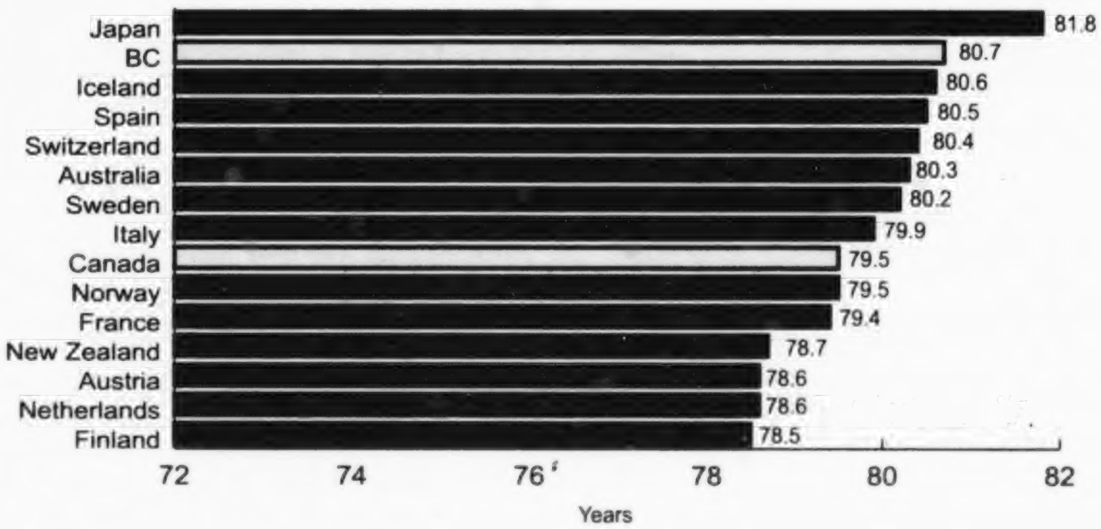
Provinces - Life Expectancy at Birth, Males



Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life Expectancy at Birth, 2003, Years



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels.

How Does BC Compare?
British Columbia performs very well on life expectancy at birth relative to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked 2nd out of 31 jurisdictions with a 2003 life expectancy at birth of 80.7 years, 2nd only to Japan at 81.8 years. Canada ranked 9th in the OECD with average life expectancy at birth of 79.5 years. Turkey ranked last among OECD countries with a life expectancy at birth of 68.7 years. Hungary ranked 30th with a life expectancy of 72.4 years, preceded by the Slovak Republic at 73.9, Poland at 74.7 and Mexico at 74.9 years.

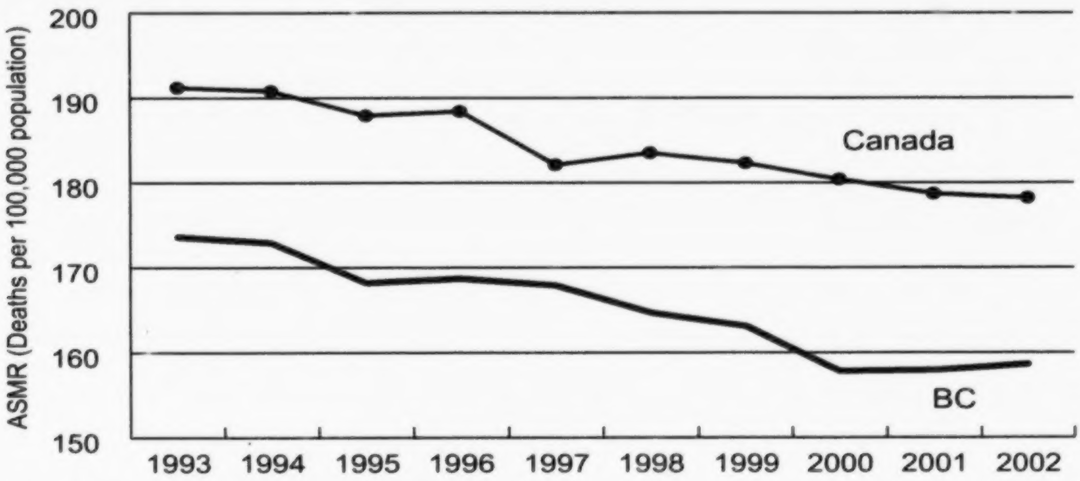
British Columbia ranked 10th for improvement in life expectancy at birth between 1994 and 2003 with a 2.8% (2.2 year) increase. Not surprisingly, the largest improvements and the highest ranks were seen in countries that have relatively low life expectancies. Korea ranked 1st with a 5.6% improvement, followed by Hungary at 4.2% and Poland at 4.0%.

Worldwide life expectancy at birth is 66.7 years, with high income countries averaging 78.4 years and low income countries averaging 58.8 years. Malawi and Zimbabwe in eastern Africa have among the lowest life expectancy at birth; less than 40 years.

Notes: The following countries do not have data for 2003: Belgium, Ireland, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Slovak Republic, Switzerland and the United States. Values from 2002 are used for these countries.
Canada's rate as reported by Statistics Canada (and used elsewhere in this report) differs slightly from those reported by the OECD for this indicator; the difference averages 0.21% for the 1993 through 2002 period. Statistics Canada's values are used in the above analysis.

Performance Indicator 18 Cancer Mortality Environment, Health and Society

Cancer Mortality* Rate per 100,000 Population, BC and the Canadian Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

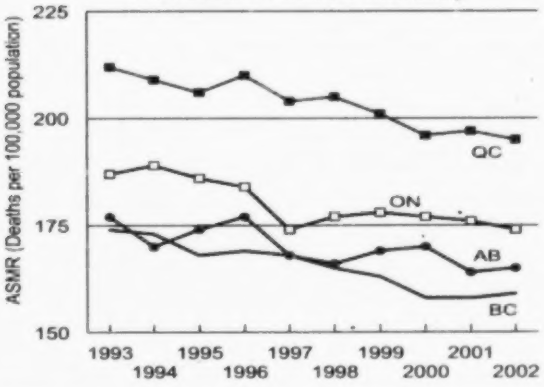
Description

Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells form in human organs or tissue and grow to form a tumor. Two-thirds of all cancers are caused by a person's lifestyle, such as diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking habits. This indicator provides insight about the health related lifestyle choices made by people within a jurisdiction.

Why it's Important

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. The National Cancer Institute of Canada estimates that there will be as many as 145,500 new cases of cancer and 68,300 cancer deaths in 2004.

Provinces - Cancer Mortality*



Approximately 43% of men and 38% of women will develop cancer. Fully 28% of men and 23% of women will die of cancer. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women; colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer. Smoking is responsible for about one-third of potential years of life lost due to cancer and this proportion is increasing.**

Where BC Ranks

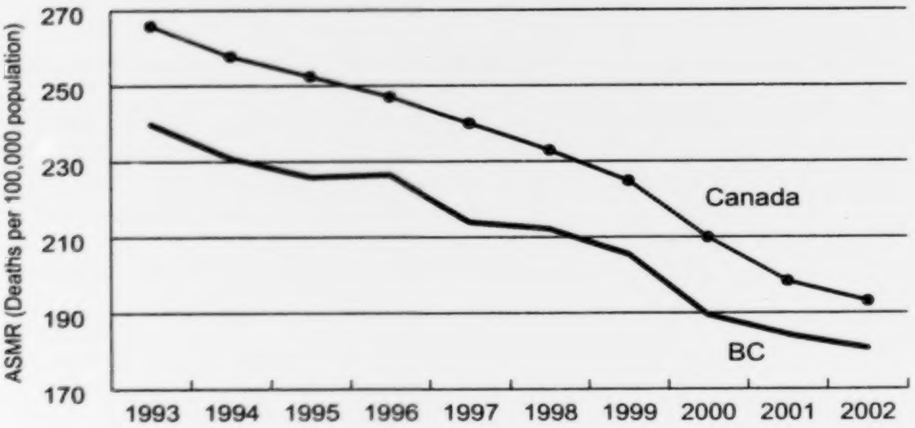
By Province	1999 1st	2000 1st	2001 1st	2002 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1998 - 1999 6th	1999 - 2000 1st	2000 - 2001 8th	2001 - 2002 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 1999 1st	1991 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 2nd	1993 - 2002 **6th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2002, approximately 159 people per 100,000 died from cancer in BC. This was the lowest rate in Canada, and 12.4% below the Canadian average of 178 people per 100,000. BC saw an 8.6% drop from its 1993 mortality rate of 174; the Canadian average was a decline of 6.8%.

Note: *There is a break in the data due to Statistics Canada's adoption of the ICD-10 in 2000 - the 10th edition of International Classification of Diseases. The impact of the implementation of ICD-10 on deaths due to malignant neoplasms is estimated to be a 1.24% increase in the number of such deaths. No historical revision is planned. **National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Cancer Statistics 2004.

Cardiovascular Disease Mortality* Rate per 100,000 Population,
BC and the Canadian Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

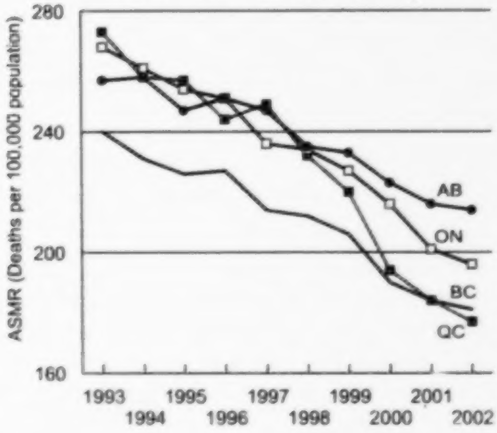
Description

Cardiovascular disease refers to a number of diseases of the circulatory system such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and arrhythmias among others.

Why it's Important

It is the leading cause of hospitalization (except childbirth) among Canadians, and is the cause of death of almost 40% of the population despite falling mortality rates from cardiovascular disease. With health professionals increasingly building public awareness on growing obesity rates in Canada, especially among children and youth, heart disease is again taking centre stage. While cardiovascular disease continues to affect the elderly, it is currently the third leading cause of death among the under 75 population and also affects quality of life, activity levels, and employability of numerous younger Canadians.

Provinces - Cardio Mortality*



Where BC Ranks

By Province	1999 1st	2000 1st	2001 2nd	**2002** **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	1998 - 1999 7th	1999 - 2000 3rd	2000 - 2001 10th	2001 - 2002 **8th**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 1999 3rd	1991 - 2000 3rd	1992 - 2001 2nd	1993 - 2002 **4th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2002, approximately 181 people per 100,000 died from diseases of the circulatory system in BC. This was the second-lowest rate in Canada, and 6.9% below the Canadian average of 193 people per 100,000. Quebec had the lowest rate in 2002 at 177 per 100,000 population. BC saw a 24.7% drop from its 1993 mortality rate of 240; the Canadian average was a decline of 27.4%.

Note: *There is a break in the data due to Statistics Canada's adoption of the ICD-10 in 2000 - the 10th edition of International Classification of Diseases. The impact of the implementation of ICD-10 on deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system is estimated to be a 0.26% decrease in the number of such deaths. No historical revision is planned.

Health Risk Factors

Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest killers in Canada overall and in British Columbia. In 2003, cancer was responsible for 27.8 percent and heart disease 25.0 percent of all deaths in BC; together they account for the majority of deaths in BC. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use. These health risk factors are common, but are controllable through changes in habits and lifestyle.

Obesity, Poor Eating Habits and Inactivity

Cancers related to poor diet include bladder, lung, oral cavity, pancreas, prostate and stomach. The International Agency for Research on Cancer attributes one-quarter to one-third of all breast, colon, esophagus, kidney and uterus cancers to excess body weight and inactivity. As well, those who are overweight are at higher risk of high blood pressure, high blood lipids and diabetes, putting them at a higher risk of heart disease and stroke.

While fruit and vegetable consumption has been on the rise, and physical inactivity rates for those 12 and over have been declining, in 2001 more than 60 percent of Canadians still did not get their recommended intake of fruit and vegetables, and more than half of Canadians 12 or older were physically inactive. Childhood obesity in Canada has tripled from 3 percent in 1978-79 to 9 percent in 2004.

Smoking, Tobacco use and Exposure to Tobacco

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, exposure to tobacco increases the risks not only of lung cancer (the top cause of all cancer deaths) but also of bladder, cervix, colorectal, esophagus, kidney, larynx, oral and pancreas cancer. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, heart disease rates are 70 percent higher for smokers than non-smokers. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness in Canada, accounting for 30 percent of cancer deaths. The percentage of smokers in Canada has been on the decline since 1965. However, 20 percent of Canadians aged 15 or more were smokers in 2004, 22 percent of men and 18 percent of women.

BC and the Health Risk Factors

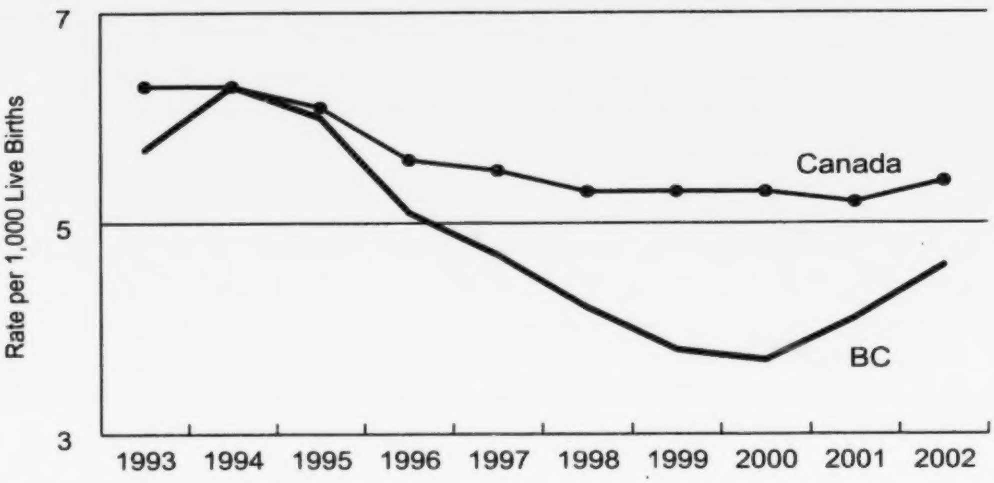
British Columbia currently ranks low among all the provinces in occurrence and prevalence of health risks. With regard to obesity and physical inactivity, BC had the lowest rate of obesity in Canada with 18 percent of men and 20 percent of women classified as obese in 2004. The Canadian average was 22.9 percent for men and 23.2 percent for women. BC also had the lowest rate for those 12 and over who were physically inactive in 2000/01. For smoking and exposure to tobacco, British Columbia had the lowest proportion of those 15 and over that were current smokers of all Canadian provinces in 2004, at 15 percent. Ontario had the second lowest rate (19%), while New Brunswick was the highest (24%). British Columbia also had the lowest proportion of children exposed at home to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), at 7 percent, while the Canadian average was 15 percent and Quebec was the highest, at 26 percent.

British Columbia may rank low relative to other provinces, but these risks are still affecting health in BC. The percentage of obese and/or overweight individuals, both in Canada overall and in BC, is on the rise. And while BC has the lowest percentage of current smokers at 15 percent, that equates to approximately 522,750 British Columbians still smoking. Policies and programs can help inform people and encourage healthy lifestyles recognizing the correlation between smoking, exposure to tobacco, obesity, poor eating habits, and physical inactivity, and cancer and heart disease. However, the onus is on individuals to actually make the changes.

Sources: BC Stats; Canadian Cancer Society / National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Cancer Statistics 2005; Statistics Canada, 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey. Heart and Stroke Foundation Heart Disease: Risk Factors, 2005; Health Canada, Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) 2004.

Performance Indicator 20 Infant Mortality Environment, Health and Society

Infant Mortality Rate, BC and the Canadian Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

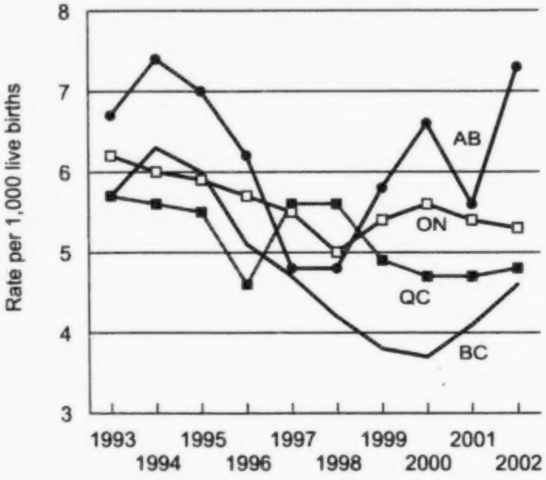
Description

Infants who die in the first year of life, expressed as a count and a rate per 1,000 live births.

Why it's Important

A long-established measure, not only of child health, but also of the well-being of a society. This indicator reflects the level of mortality, health status, and health care of a population, and the effectiveness of preventive care and the attention paid to maternal and child health.

Provinces - Infant Mortality



Where BC Ranks

By Province	1999 1st	2000 3rd	2001 1st	2002 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	1998 - 1999 7th	1999 - 2000 5th	2000 - 2001 7th	2001 - 2002 **9th**
Period Progress Rank	1992 - 1999 1st	1992 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 1st	1993 - 2002 **3rd**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked fifth for the infant mortality rate in 2002 with an indicator value of 4.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, behind Newfoundland and Labrador at 4.5 and ahead of Quebec 4.8.

Infant mortality rates are volatile as seen in the provincial comparison figure. Although BC ranked fifth in 2002, it has the lowest average infant mortality rate among the provinces for the most recent five and ten year periods. British Columbia's average rate for 1998 through 2002 was 4.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, ahead of second-place New Brunswick at 4.6 and last place Manitoba at 7.1.

The nation as a whole saw a 14.3% decline in infant mortality per 1,000 live births over the 1993 to 2002 period. The decline in BC was a slightly above-average 19.3%.

NEW

Performance Indicator 20 Supplemental Information: Preventive Health Care

The Importance of Predictive and Preventive Health Care

Health care costs consume a significant and growing portion of B.C.'s public revenues – a full 43% of the total provincial budget in 2005/2006 at a cost of $11.6* billion. These costs, have increased twice as fast as the provincial economy in recent years, and show no sign of diminishing in the near future. In light of this growing public cost, enhanced attention is being paid to approaches that may prove valuable in reducing health care costs while, at the same time, providing British Columbians with improved health care outcomes.

Techniques for predicting and preventing illness, injury and disease are by no means new. Predictive health care is the identification of factors that are likely to contribute to disease or illness in certain populations or individuals. Predictive methods have been used in various forms at the public policy level as well as by private insurers for years. Based on predictive methods the health care system has begun to better understand what factors may contribute to illness, and look at approaches to illness prevention. Prevention, the attempt to ensure disease and illness do not occur rather than simply treating symptoms, also has a variety of forms and has seen significant growth over the last century with the introduction of various public health and safety policies, public immunization programs, physical education in schools, and workplace safety initiatives (among others). But both predictive and preventative health care are currently showing signs of significant promise in the ongoing challenge to ensure that British Columbians live healthier lives, while simultaneously reducing the burden on the health care system.

With the ActNow campaign, and various complimentary measures, BC is hoping to address five common risk factors – physical inactivity, tobacco use, obesity, poor nutrition, and alcohol use during pregnancy – in an effort to reduce a number of serious yet frequently preventable chronic illnesses including cancer and cardiovascular disease. With 30 percent of the healthcare budget consumed by 5 percent of the population with multiple chronic illnesses, attempting to avoid these conditions, rather than treat them once they have occurred, is healthier for both the patient and the system.

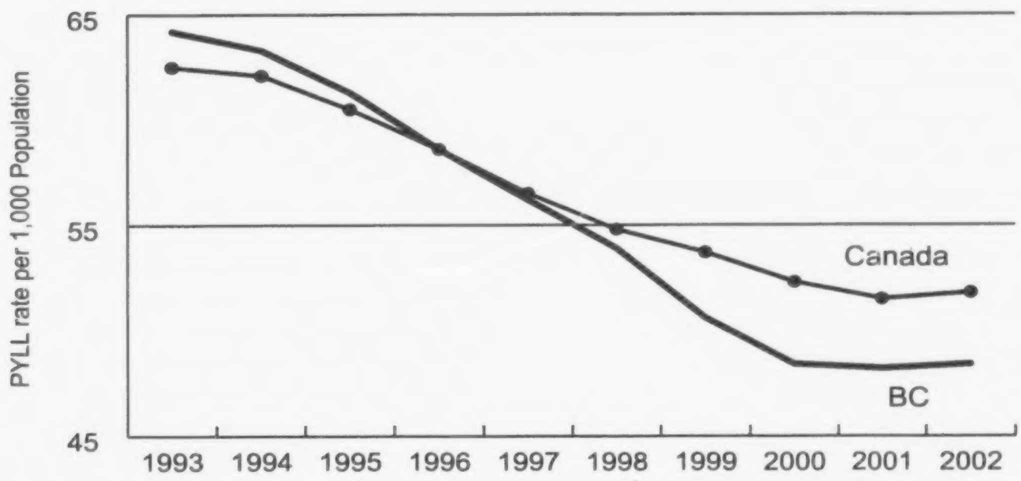
While prevention can be enhanced through addressing these common health risk factors there are other actions which could prove useful. Increasingly, attention is being drawn to the possible impacts of environmental factors on British Columbians' health. Ensuring that British Columbians' food, drinking water and air resources are protected is important to reducing treatment costs for disease and illness. Towards this end, ongoing measurement and monitoring of BC's air quality, UV indexes, and exposure to toxins such as lead and mercury will be essential to ensuring a healthy populace and a manageable health care burden.

Another area where preventive health can have a positive impact on both outcomes and health care costs is the area of inadequate and inappropriate healthcare. The misuse, over-use (excessive prescribing of antibiotics and other drugs or treatments) and under-use (the inadequate treatment of chronic disease) of health care procedures and treatments are gaining attention. The financial and human costs of such errors and omissions in medical treatment are profound – and potentially avoidable.

Prediction of illness has started to take on a new scope based on scientific developments in genetics. While this research is still in its infancy, some new tests can predict the health risks of individuals, as opposed to groups at risk, by detecting genetic mutation, predisposition, and markers. As technology advances, health care systems in BC and beyond will have to weigh the costs of testing individuals versus the subsequent costs of monitoring, prevention and treatment. The effects of testing on health care costs will depend upon the test's accuracy, the degree to which genetic markers are true indications of disease risks, and how individuals react to the results.

Sources: BC Ministry of Health, Health Care Today and Tomorrow and (2004), Toward Better Health Care for British Columbians and Prevention and Wellness Planning; notes from staff researcher's discussions with Dr. Ray Copes, BC Centre for Disease Control and Dr. John Millar, Population Health, Provincial Health Services Authority; Ontario Ministry of Health (2002), Predictive Genetic Tests and Health Care Costs. **Note:** *These numbers do not match those in the "Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes" due to an inflation adjustment and the fact that these data are more up-to-date than those presented by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

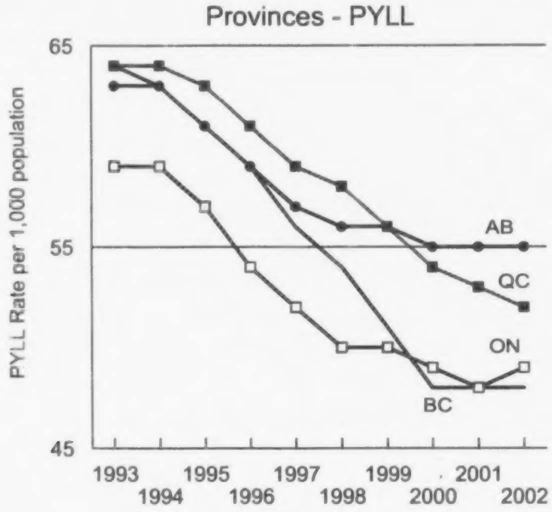
Performance Indicator 21 PYLL Environment, Health and Society


Potential Years of Life Lost Rate, BC and the Canadian Average

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) is an indicator of premature mortality. Potential Years of Life Lost represents the number of years lost when a person dies prematurely. For the purposes of the PYLL calculation, premature death is defined to be any death between the ages of 0 and 74 and is the sum of the differences between the actual age at death and age 75.


Provinces - PYLL

Why it's Important

This indicator gives greater weight to deaths that occur at younger ages than to those at older ages, and can vary according to gender, socio-economic status, and geographic region.

Where BC Ranks

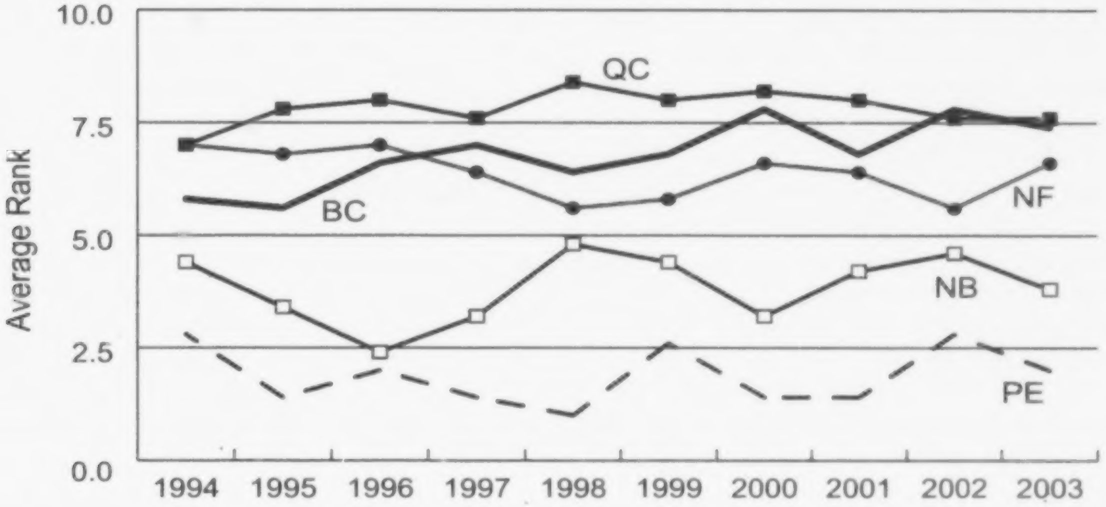
By Province	1999 2nd	2000 1st	2001 2nd	2002 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1998 - 1999 1st	1999 - 2000 3rd	2000 - 2001 7th	2001 - 2002 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 1999 1st	1991 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 1st	1993 - 2002 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked first in terms of Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) in 2002 with an indicator value of 48.4 years per 1,000 population, ahead of Ontario at 48.8 and Quebec at 52.4. Every province noted a decline in their PYLL rate between 1993 and 2002. British Columbia had the largest decrease (27.1%) ahead of Quebec (23.5%) and Nova Scotia (22.1%). The nation as a whole saw a 21.2% decline in potential years of life lost per 1,000 population over the 1993 to 2002 period.

Core Target 6 | Social Condition | Environment, Health and Society

Social Condition Rank, Top and Bottom Provinces



Source: BC Progress Board

Description

This core target provides a summary of BC's social condition indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators that follow in this report: low income cut-offs (LICOs), low birth weight rate, personal and property crime rate, income assistance, and long-term unemployment. Social Condition rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia earned the ninth place rank for Social Condition in 2003. This is a slight improvement for BC which was in last place in 2002.

In 2003, BC had the bottom rank for percentage of families and unattached individuals below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO) as well for the proportion of the unemployed designated as long-term, the ninth-place rank for personal and property crime, fifth for the percent of the population on income assistance and third for the low birth weight rate.

Where BC Ranks

	2000	2001	2002	2003
By Province	9th	9th	10th	**9th**

Social Condition, Component Ranks by Province, 2003

	LICO	Low Birth Weight Rate	Personal and Property Crime	Income Assistance	Long-Term Unemployment	Average
Year	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	**10**	**3**	**9**	**5**	**10**	**9**
AB	7	10	7	9	2	8
SK	2	5	10	6	6	6
MB	6	4	8	1	3	3
ON	4	9	2	3	7	4
QC	9	8	4	8	9	10
NB	3	2	3	7	4	2
NS	5	7	6	4	5	5
PE	1	1	5	2	1	1
NF	8	6	1	10	8	7

Source: BC Progress Board

The New Social Condition Index

The introduction of the Social Condition Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of social indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are income assistance and long-term unemployment. Income assistance has been addressed in previous reports as a supplemental topic in our regional BC comparisons, but not in province to province comparisons. Long-term unemployment was not covered in previous benchmarking reports.

The switch to this index for Core Target 6 from the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO) has been done in recognition of LICOs weaknesses and to highlight the challenges, beyond LICO rates, that BC has in measured social condition. The BC Progress Board has consistently expressed concerns about Statistics Canada's LICO and has sought a better indicator of low income incidence. The market basket measure (see page 132) will not be a viable option for several years and may not even prove to be a useful replacement for LICO. British Columbia held the bottom rank among provinces for its LICO rate in 1999 and for 2001-2003. Its best rank over the period 1994 through 2003 was seventh and its most frequent rank was ninth. British Columbia's performance on the Social Condition Index is little different, although there are fewer last place ranks.

British Columbia Ranks on Social Condition Index Components

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Worst Rank, 1994-2003	Best Rank, 1994-2003	Most Frequent Rank (Mode)
LICO	8	7	9	9	9	**10**	9	**10**	**10**	**10**	10	7	9
Low Birth Weight Rate	1	3	3	3	2	1	**5**	2	**5**	3	5	1	3
Personal and Property Crime	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	9	**10**	10	9	10
Income Assistance	**7**	5	**7**	6	5	5	**7**	5	5	5	7	5	5
Long-Term Unemployment	3	3	4	7	6	8	8	8	9	**10**	10	3	8
Social Condition Index	5	4	7	9	7	9	9	9	**10**	9	10	4	9

Source: BC Progress Board

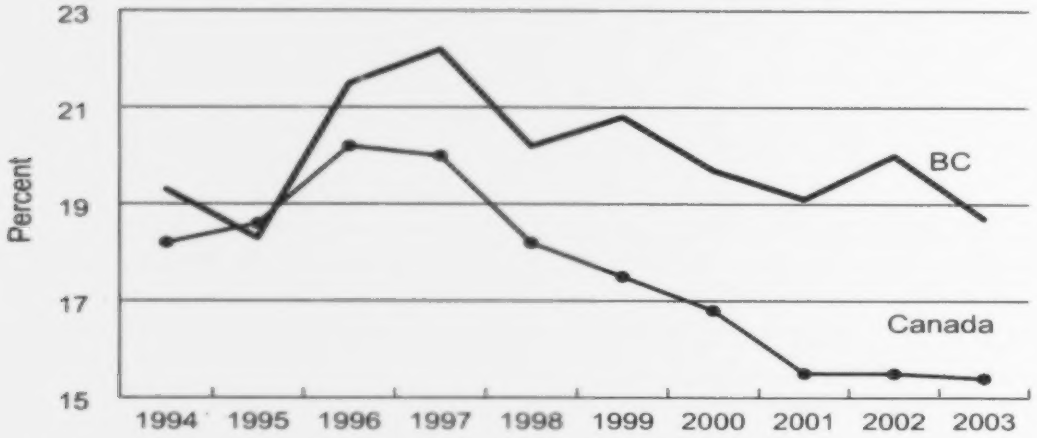
British Columbia's best rank on all five components of the index over the 1994 through 2003 period was first on the low birth weight rate, but strong ranks were limited to this component. British Columbia ranked last for the crime rate in every year except 2002. The worst rank BC earned on income assistance was seventh and the best was fifth although the modal (i.e., the most frequent) rank was fifth as well. British Columbia's worst long-term unemployment rank was tenth and its modal rank was ninth.

As with the Health Outcomes Index, adjustments such as incorporating a moving average have not been made and the index components are all drawn from the same year even though more current data are available for some (e.g., crime).

More information on LICO (performance indicator 22, or PI22) can be found on page 121. Similarly, information on: the low weight birth rate (PI23) is on page 125; the crime rate (PI24) is at page 129; income assistance (PI25) is on page 134; and, long-term unemployment (PI26) is at page 135.

Performance Indicator 22 Low Income Cut-Offs Environment, Health and Society

Families and Unattached Individuals with Income Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Off, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

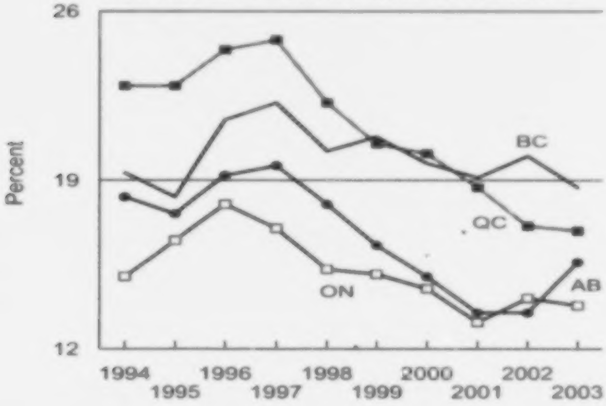
Description

This measure is the ratio of families and unattached individuals with low incomes (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Why it's Important

There are a number of negative outcomes for families experiencing low incomes. People with low income may experience more physical and mental health problems, rely more on charity, attain lower levels of education, or have higher secondary school drop out rates.

Provinces - Low Income Prevalence



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 9th*	2001 10th*	2002 10th	**2003** **10th**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 5th*	2000-2001 9th*	2001-2002 8th	2002-2003 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2000 8th	1992-2001 9th*	1993-2002 9th	1994-2003 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, BC ranked last in Canada with 18.7% of families and unattached individuals with incomes below the after-tax low income cut-off level.* This was 3.3 percentage points (21.4%) above the Canadian average of 15.4%. Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate at 11.1%, followed by Saskatchewan at 12.3%.

British Columbia experienced a 3.1% decrease in the proportion of people with low income between 1994 and 2003. Prince Edward Island (15.6%) was the only province with an increase. The number of Canadian families and unattached individuals with incomes below the after-tax LICO fell by 15.4% between 1994 and 2003. Outside of BC, the provincial decreases ranged from 7.5% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 26.2% in Quebec.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. In particular, the 2003 historical revision incorporates new population projections and information on the overall distribution of wages and salaries - the main component of income in Canada. See Appendix C - Glossary for more information.

Low Income Incidence Measures

The use of Low Income Cut-Offs as a benchmark can be fairly criticized on several points, not least the relative nature of the measure. For instance, it is possible for everyone in society to be better off, yet have no reduction in low income, since relatively speaking, the people at the lower end of the spectrum will still be spending a larger portion of their income on the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. Statistics Canada sets LICOs to be the income level at which 64% or greater of after-tax income is spent on food, shelter and clothing. The 64% line represents the average proportion of income spent on food, shelter and clothing (44% in 1992 over all households) plus 20 percentage points.

A second problem, of particular importance to interprovincial benchmarking, is that LICOs are calculated at the national level and do not properly adjust for variations in the spatial distribution of the population[*]. Low income ratios using LICOs implicitly assume that all large cities are alike and that all rural areas are alike.

An alternative to the relative measure is to estimate the cost of a basket of necessities and keep track of the number of people who cannot afford that basket. This approach generates what is usually referred to as absolute measures. Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), in cooperation with a Federal/Provincial/Territorial working group, developed the Market Basket Measure (MBM). In the 2003 benchmarking report, the possibility of replacing LICO with MBM was raised. The change cannot be made at this time, or possibly even for several years, because HRDC produced MBM results for only one year. Social Development Canada, recently split off from HRDC, expects to have 2000-2002 data released before the end of 2005 and to add another year of data annually in late summer or early fall. A MBM time series that meets the criteria for Progress Board benchmarking will take a number of years to build.

The table below presents year 2000 results for the Market Basket Measure (MBM) as well as the Low Income Cut-Off – After Tax (LICO-IAT), Low Income Cut-Off – Before Tax (LICO-IBT) and the Low Income Measure – After Tax (LIM-IAT). The MBM generates higher rates of low income incidence than the other measures for almost all groups. While the report that these data come from does not mention BC specifically, it confirms that a larger share of the low income population is found in higher cost communities than when the LICO-IAT is used due to how the low income thresholds are derived.

Low Income Incidence in British Columbia, Various Measures, 2000

	MBM	LICO-IAT	LICO-IBT	LIM-IAT
All Persons	20.0	12.4	16.5	12.1
Economic Families 2+	17.2	9.2	12.9	9.8
Two Parent Families with Children	18.5	8.5	10.9	8.5
Female Lone-Parent Families	47.8	27.1	43.8	32.4
Unattached Individuals	31.2	28.4	35.7	23.1

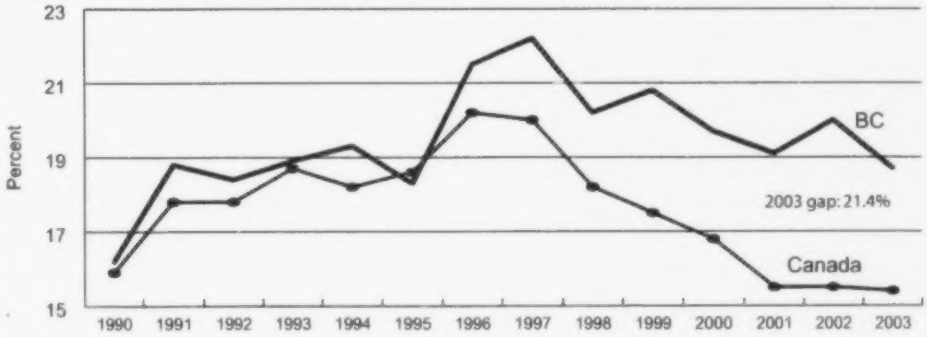
Source: Understanding the 2000 Low Income Statistics Based on the Market Basket Measure, Applied Research Branch, Strategic Policy, Human Resources Development Canada, May 2003.

Note: The overall rate for LICO-IAT (the measure we use in Core Target 6) in the table above differs from that reported elsewhere in the report - the "all families" definition is used elsewhere while the above table reports a variety of definitions. BC's 2002 rank is the same irrespective of which definition is chosen. [*]**Source:** Statistics Canada, Exploration of Methodological Issues in the Development of the Market Basket Measure of Low Income for Human Resources Development Canada, February, 2004.

Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia

British Columbia has historically had a high Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) ratio based on the percentage of families under the (1992 base) after-tax low income line. Between 1990 and 2003, BC had two eighth place ranks, and four each of seventh, ninth and last place (10th) ranks.

After-Tax Low Income Cut-Off Rates for BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.
Notes: 1992 base; families and unattached individuals

In our benchmarking reports we have attempted to provide some explanation for possible reasons for this poor performance. Unfortunately, the research available up to that point could not provide any solid answers but did provide suggestions for further research. The Board asked Statistics Canada to investigate the question: "Why does BC perform poorly on the low income cut-off measure?" This topic box provides an overview of the Statistics Canada technical paper results in as lay terms as possible.

The technical paper consisted of four comparisons for 2003: families in BC and Canada; individuals in BC and Canada; families in the Vancouver and Toronto CMAs; and, individuals in the Vancouver and Toronto CMAs. Prior research indicated we should investigate employment engagement and demographic factors such as family structure and size along with the age, immigrant status, education attainment, and education enrolment status of the major earner.

The results of the decomposition analyses of low income rate gaps - the difference between the low income rate in BC and Canada (or Vancouver and Toronto) - were similar for all categories but BC vs. Canadian families. The low income rate (LIR) gap between families in Vancouver and Toronto is explained by differences in employment engagement. This reflects the fact that families in Vancouver were almost twice as likely to have no connection whatsoever to the labour market as families in Toronto (10.2% versus 5.3%). Vancouver also had higher shares of families wherein the principal earner worked less than a full time schedule. Little or none of the LIR gap was explained by demographic factors such as family size, age, immigrant status, education and enrolment status. The story among unattached individuals in comparisons between BC and Canada and Vancouver and Toronto was essentially the same.

The decomposition analysis of the LIR gap between BC and Canadian families was not as conclusive; 59% of the gap remained unexplained. Specifically, the analysis indicates that with the exception of immigrant status, very little of the BC-Canada low-income difference is due to demographic differences. This includes family structure and family size, as well as age, education, and student status of the major earner. The analysis suggests that about 13% of the difference could be ascribed to differences in immigration status, a further 28% to lower employment engagement in BC, and that the other factors are not relevant in explaining the gap.

Of particular interest to the Progress Board in commissioning the Statistics Canada report was gaining insight into why the LIR gap changed over time. Between 1997 and 2003, the difference in the LIR between BC and Canada among economic families widened from 0.7 points in 1997 to 3.2 points in 2003 (up 2.4 points). The results of a follow-up investigation by Statistics Canada indicate that roughly 63% of the rise in

Continued on following page.

Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia (cont.)

the LIR difference was associated with BC families falling behind in their employment engagement over the period. For example, the share of families with no employment engagement fell from 10.9% to 8.8% in Canada between 1997 and 2003, while in BC it rose from 9.1% to 10.6%. Statistics Canada notes that these results are consistent with the explanation given for the 2003 difference in LIRs between BC and Canada with a large component explained by relatively low employment engagement in BC, plus a substantial unexplained component. In essence, between 1997 and 2003, the LIR gap between British Columbian and Canadian families expanded because employment engagement fell in BC while it increased in Canada. And, although low income rates fell in both jurisdictions, they fell faster in Canada than in BC.

The results of this technical paper suggested two areas for additional research. The first is to try and explain why BC had a lower labour market engagement than for Canada as a whole. Possible explanations for this are that BC attracts people who place relatively more value on leisure time and that BC's underground economy is possibly larger than elsewhere in Canada. The underground economy is considered in a topic box later in this volume.

The second area for follow-up research was to examine the relative strength of unexplained factors in the BC-Canada low-income gap among families. As a first step, Statistics Canada examined income from market and transfer sources for economic families whose income from market sources is so low as to place them on the cusp of low-income. Preliminary results using the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) database suggest that for 2003 BC families had higher market income and a lower tax burden, but that transfer payments were lower than for Canadian families. On average, the SLID data show that after-tax income among families with low-market income was roughly 6.1 percent lower in BC than in Canada in 2003. Unfortunately, the SLID data are not detailed enough to provide a breakdown of which transfers are lower. In order to provide a detailed breakdown, the BC Progress Board commissioned an additional analysis from the Small Area and Administrive Data Division (SAADD) of Statistics Canada.

The SAADD analysis of low income families using the Longitudinal Admininistrative Database (LAD) are generally consistent with the preliminary results for 2003: BC families had higher market income, a higher tax burden, and lower transfer payments. In sum, after-tax income for low income families was 5.6% lower in BC than in Canada in 2003.

At a finer level of detail, federal personal income taxes were approximately equal in BC and Canada ($1,000 vs. $980), but provincial personal income taxes were lower ($400 vs. $580).

Federal transfers were $700 lower in BC than in Canada, on average. Differences in transfers between British Columbia and Canadian families were relatively small for the individual transfers. For example, average amounts for employment insurance (EI) and the GST tax credit (GSTC/HSTC) were the same. The largest difference was $200 (4.9%) for the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). Federal taxes were $20 (2.0%) higher in BC than in Canada.

Provincial transfers were $800 lower in BC than in Canada, on average. Average transfers for workers' compensation (WCB) were $400 (4.0%) higher in BC than in Canada. Similarly, average income assistance payments were $500 (8.1%) higher in BC. British Columbia families receive $210 (43.8%) less, on average, than Canadian families in provincial refundable tax credits and family benefits (Ref. TC & Fam. Ben.). Offsetting this almost entirely is a $180 (31.0%) lower provincial tax burden.

Summary Table on following page.

Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia (cont.)

Income of Census Families with Low Market Income* (2003)

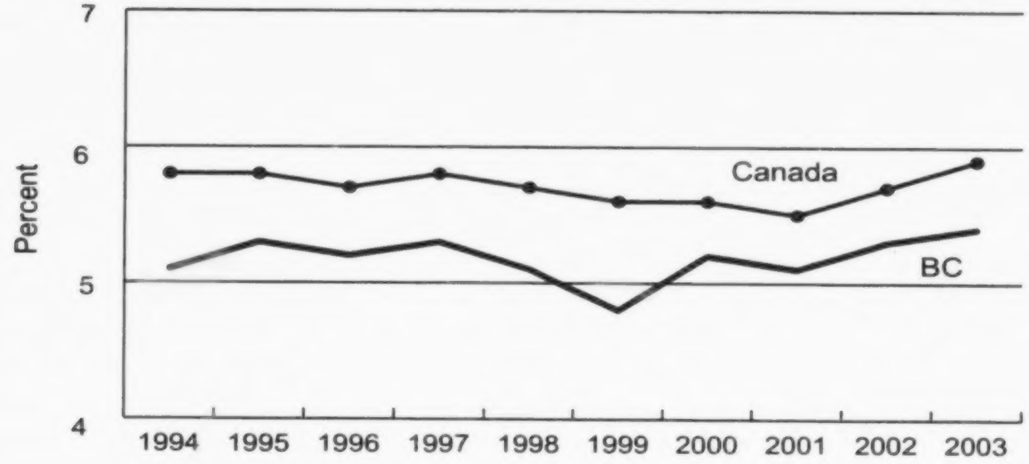
	Average Market Earnings		Average Transfers		Average Taxes		Average Income After Tax	
	Amount ($)	*Difference from Canada (%)*	Amount ($)	*Difference from Canada (%)*	Amount ($)	*Difference from Canada (%)*	Amount ($)	*Difference from Canada (%)*
Canada								
	8,200		10,800		1,300		16,100	
Federal								
EI			6,500					
OAS			9,500					
CPP/QPP			6,400					
CCTB			4,100					
GSTC/HSTC			410					
Federal Total			8,500		980			
Provincial								
WCB			9,900					
SA			6,200					
Ref. TC & Fam. Ben			480					
Provincial Total			2,800		580			
British Columbia								
	8,400	*2.4*	9,500	*(12.0)*	1,400	*7.7*	15,200	*(5.6)*
Federal								
EI			6,500	*0.0*				
OAS			9,300	*(2.1)*				
CPP/QPP			6,500	*1.6*				
CCTB			3,900	*(4.9)*				
GSTC/HSTC			410	*0.0*				
Federal Total			7,800	*(8.2)*	1,000	*2.0*		
Provincial								
WCB			10,300	*4.0*				
SA			6,700	*8.1*				
Ref. TC & Fam. Ben			270	*(43.8)*				
Provincial Total			2,000	*(28.6)*	400	*(31.0)*		

Sources: BC Progress Board; data from Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division (SAADD) using the Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD). **Note:** *Income from market sources (net of government transfers) was less than the LICO-IAT. **Definitions:** EI = Employment Insurance; OAS = Old Age Security; CPP/QPP = Canada/Quebec Pension Plan; CCTB = Canada Child Tax Benefit; GSTC/HSTC = Goods and Services (and Harmonized) Sales Tax Credit; WCB = Workers' Compensation Board; SA = Social Assistance; Ref. TC & Fam. Ben. = Refundable Tax Credits and Family Benefits.

Note: The "Total" categories do not represent the sums of the individual components because the populations that the averages are based on vary depending on whether or not the family reported income (or claimed credits). For example, average income after-tax for BC is not equal to the sum of average market earnings ($8,400 based on 459,125 families) plus average transfers ($9,500 based on 599,900 families) less average taxes ($1,400 based on 219,600 families). The $15,200 value reported is the average income after-tax for the entire sample of 609,785 families using market income plus transfers less taxes.

Performance Indicator 23 Low Birth Weight

Low Weight Births as a Percent of Total Live Births, BC and Canada

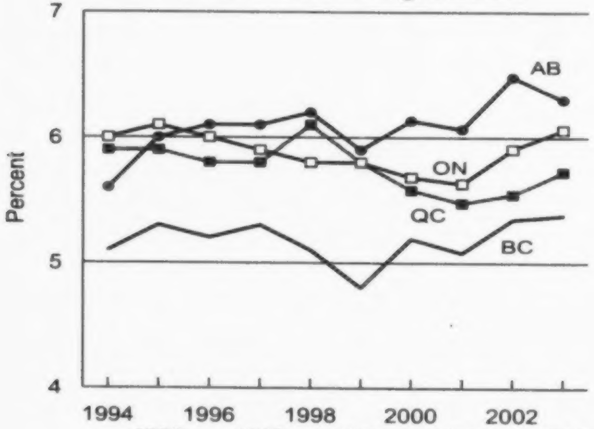


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada.

Description

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered to be low birth weight infants. This indicator is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births. The World Health Organization uses the low birth weight rate as an indicator of general social conditions in a jurisdiction. This indicator serves as a barometer of overall access to health and education services, and of the level of socio-economic inequality. Factors that contribute to low birth weight are socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits.

Provinces - Low Weight Births



Why it's Important

Low birth weight newborns have a substantially higher rate of post birth illness and death. In addition, long-term health problems, lower IQ and academic achievement, increased disabilities and hospitalization rates are associated with low birth weight.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 5th	2001 2nd	2002 5th	2003 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 10th	2000-2001 2nd	2001-2002 8th	2002-2003 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 7th	1992-2001 8th	1993-2002 8th	1994-2003 **7th**

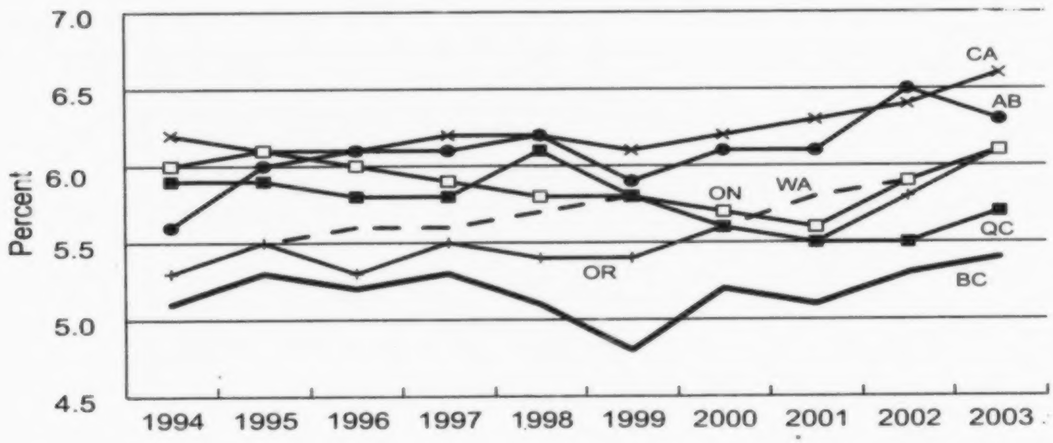
How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, British Columbia ranked second in Canada with 5.4 of all live births weighing less than 2,500 grams. This compares favourably with the Canadian average of 5.9. BC's low weight birth rate was 5.2, on average, between 1994 and 2003, the second lowest average in the country.

Except for fifth place ranks in 2000 and 2002, British Columbia held either first, second or third place among the provinces over the period 1990 through 2003.

Low Birth Weight

Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services.

Description:
Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) are classified as low birth weight infants. The factors that might contribute to a low birth weight baby include socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits. Low birth weight babies are prone to higher rates of illness and have a higher probability of hospitalization, future health problems and disabilities. This indicator is an important harbinger of the overall social condition of a province or state.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2000 1st	2001 1st	2002 1st	2003 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 7th	2000-2001 1st	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2000 7th	1993-2001 5th	1993-2002 6th	1994-2003 **3rd**

How Does BC Compare?
British Columbia had the lowest incidence of low birth weight infants* of the seven jurisdictions reviewed in 2003. BC's low birth weight rate was below the rates seen in the other provinces and states in every year between 1994 and 2003. In fact, BC's peak low birth weight ratio (5.3% in 1997 and 2003) is below the lowest rates seen in most other jurisdictions reviewed.

Oregon's average (1994 through 2003) low birth weight ratio is only 6.3% higher than BC's, while California's is 20.4% higher than in BC.

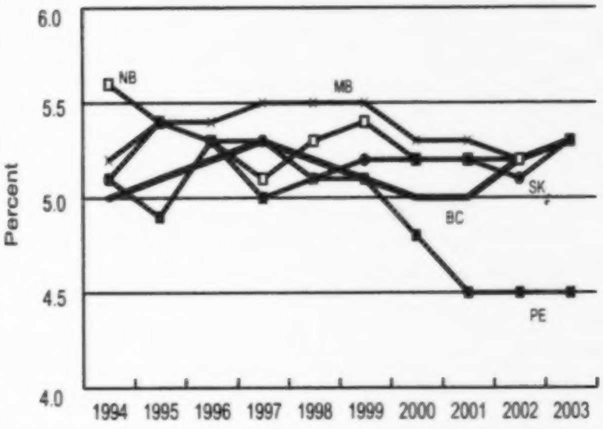
On average, between 1994 and 2003, 5.1% of live births in BC had a birth weight below 2,500 grams. The average in the three other provinces examined was between 5.8% and 6.0% of live births and, in California, the average was 6.2%.

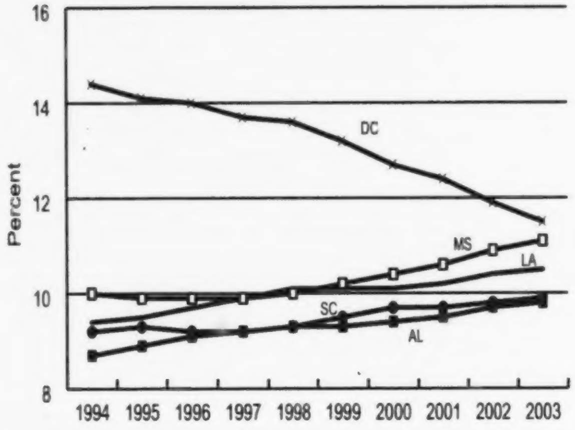
Performance Indicator 23 Supplemental Information: North American Comparison

Low Birth Weight

How Does BC Compare?
British Columbia ranked 2nd among the 61 subnational jurisdictions for average low birth weight rate* in 2003. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 1994 through 2003 average low birth weight rates were: Prince Edward Island (4.9%), British Columbia (5.1%), Saskatchewan (5.2%), New Brunswick (5.3%) and Manitoba (5.4%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Alabama (10.0%), South Carolina (10.0%), Louisiana (10.7%), Mississippi (11.4%) and the District of Columbia (10.9%).


Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America


Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America

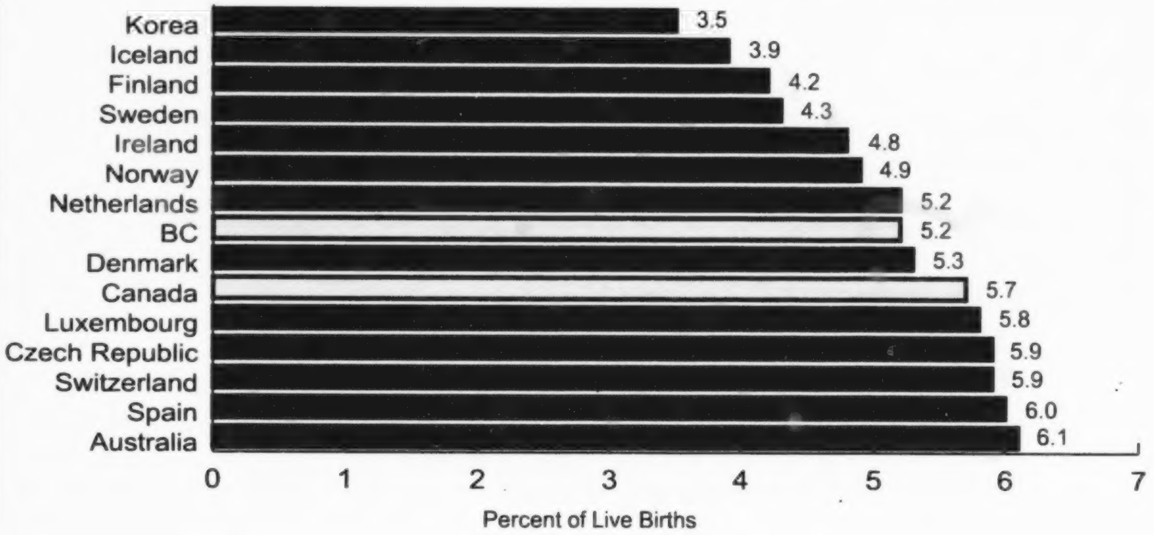
Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

	1992	1995	1998	2001	2003	2003 rank	1994 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1994 - 2003 Average
Prince Edward Island	5.2	4.6	4.9	4.0	4.2	1	4.9	1
British Columbia	**4.8**	**5.3**	**5.1**	**5.1**	**5.4**	**3**	**5.2**	**2**
Saskatchewan	4.9	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.6	5	5.3	3
New Brunswick	5.4	4.8	5.4	5.4	5.1	2	5.3	4
Manitoba	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	4	5.4	5
Alabama	8.5	9.0	9.3	9.6	10.0	57	9.4	57
South Carolina	9.0	9.3	9.5	9.6	10.0	57	9.6	58
Louisiana	9.4	9.7	10.1	10.4	10.7	59	10.1	59
Mississippi	9.9	9.8	10.1	10.7	11.4	61	10.4	60
District of Columbia	14.3	13.4	13.1	12.1	10.9	60	12.8	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

Low Birth Weight

Low Birth Weight Rate, 1994 - 2003 Average, Percent



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

Infants which weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth are considered to have low birth weight. The ratio above represents the number of low birth weight infants as a percent of total live births.

How Does BC Compare?

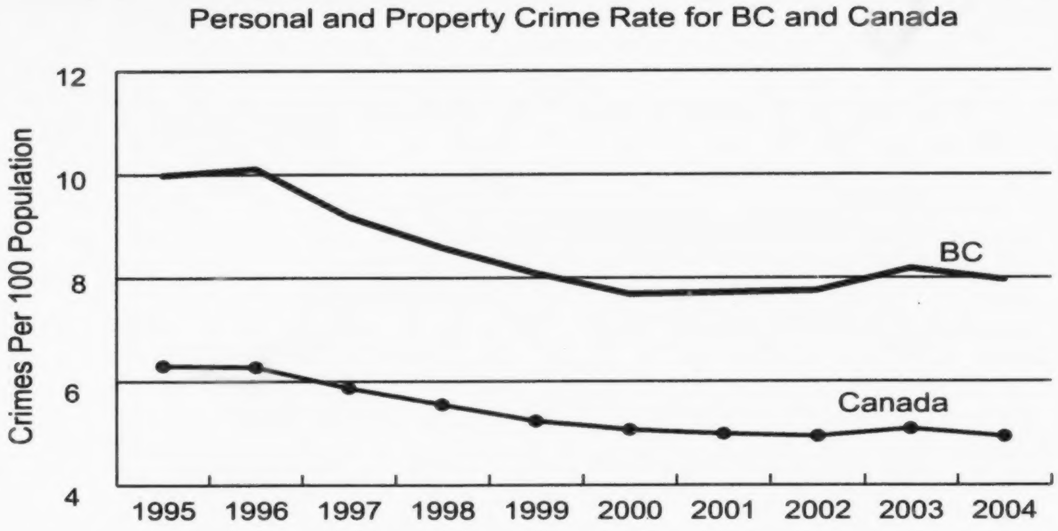
British Columbia performs well on the low birth weight rate in relation to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked 8th out of 31 jurisdictions with an average low birth weight rate of 5.2% over 1994 - 2003. Korea ranked 1st with a low weight birth rate of 3.5%, followed by Iceland (3.9%), Finland (4.2%), Sweden (4.3%), Ireland (4.8%) and Norway at 4.9%. Canada ranked 10th in the OECD with a low birth weight rate of 5.7%.

Hungary ranked last among OECD countries with an average low birth weight rate of 8.4%. After Hungary, Japan (8.2%), Turkey (7.9%) and the United States (7.6%) have the highest 1994 - 2003 average rates in the OECD.

Several low income countries have low birth weight rates above 20%. According to UN data, Yemen and Bangladesh have the highest rates at 26% and 30%, respectively.

Notes: Not all countries report a full set of 1994 - 2003 data. The gaps are as follows: Australia, 2003; Belgium, 1998-2003; Greece, 2003; Ireland, 1994 & 2003; Italy, 2003; Luxembourg, 1999-2003; Mexico, 1995, 1996, 2002 & 2003; Netherlands, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000 & 2003; Spain, 2002 & 2003; Switzerland, 2003; Turkey, 1994-1997 & 1999-2002; United Kingdom, 2003.
Canada's rate as reported by Statistics Canada (and used elsewhere in this report) differ slightly from those reported by the OECD for 1994-2003. Statistics Canada's values are used in the above analysis; this change did not affect Canada's rate or rank.

Performance Indicator 24 Personal and Property Crime Environment, Health and Society

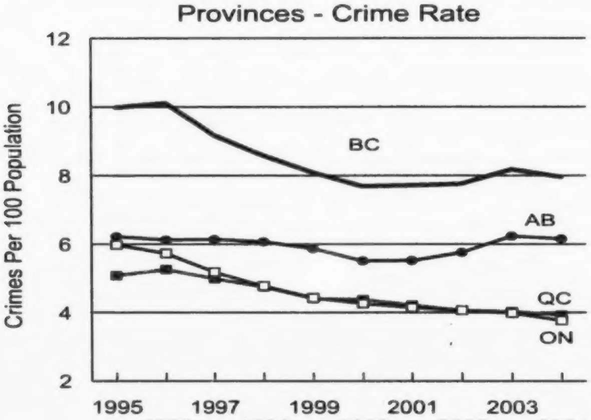


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Personal crime includes those offenses in the Criminal Code known to police that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, robbery and abduction.

Property crime includes incidents known to police involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but don't involve the threat or use of violence (e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods).



Why it's Important

The crime rate is both a reflection of community safety and security and an indicator of other social and economic problems. It can reflect a lack of employment opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction. Crime is costly to society, both from individual and community perspectives.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 9th	2002 10th	2003 9th	2004 **9th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 8th	2001-2002 7th	2002-2003 5th*	2003-2004 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 6th	1993-2002 4th	1994-2003 3rd*	1995-2004 **3rd**

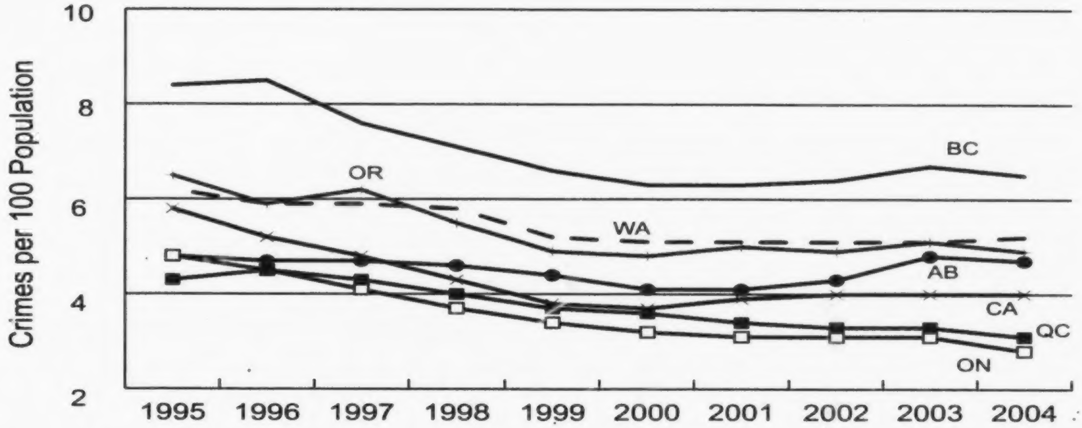
How Does BC Compare?

The crime rate in BC has fallen from 10.0 crimes per 100 people in 1995 to 8.0 crimes per 100 people in 2004, a 20.3% decrease. After three years of increases, crime rates in BC fell by 2.7% between 2003 and 2004.

BC had the highest crime rate of any province in every year between 1995 and 2000 and again in 2002. On average, between 1995 and 2004, BC had the highest property crime rate and the third highest personal crime rate among the provinces.

Note: *Does not match the rank in the 2004 Report due to data revisions.

Personal and Property Crime Rate



Personal and Property Crime Rate

Sources: BC Progress Board; Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Description:

The personal (violent) and property crime rate is based on the number of reported crimes per 100 people. Personal (violent) crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault but leaves out assault level 1 (common assault, the most frequent assault charge) as well as sexual assaults because the Canadian and US data are not comparable for these categories. Property crime includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle, and other theft.

A crime rate that is higher relative to another jurisdiction sends a signal that one is at a higher probability of being the victim of a crime. Also, a higher crime rate results in a perceived decline in social condition.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2001 7th	2002 7th	2003 7th	**2004 7th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 4th	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 6th	2003-2004 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 5th	1993-2002 5th	1994-2003 4th	1995-2004 **5th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia has the highest crime rate per 100 people among the seven provinces and states reviewed. In fact, BC had the highest crime rate in every year examined; BC's rate was between 21.9% and 43.6% higher than the next highest jurisdiction between 1995 and 2004.

The overall crime rate fell between 1995 and 2004 in every jurisdiction reviewed. The largest decline was in Ontario (40.5%) and the smallest was in Alberta (1.1%). British Columbia's decline was the fifth largest at 22.1%.

In 2004, California recorded the highest ratio of personal crime to combined personal and property crime (13.9%) among the jurisdictions reviewed while British Columbia recorded the lowest (4.4%).

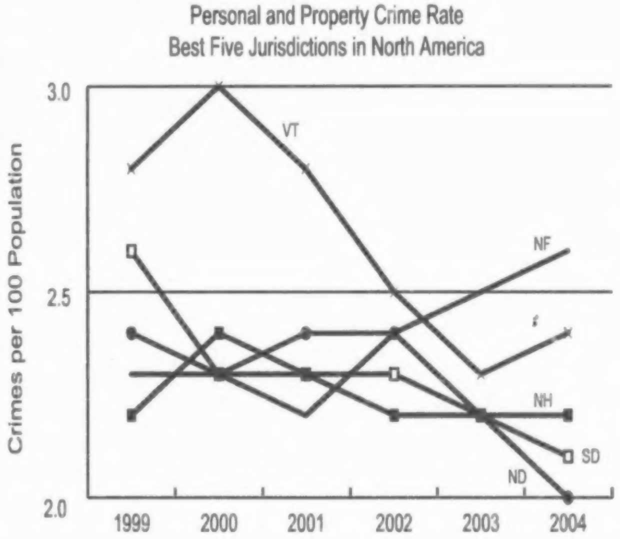
Note: This comparison is based on a subset of the total personal and property crimes used for performance indicator 20. Adjustments have been made to the Canadian data to make it comparable to the US data as outlined in Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE.

Personal and Property Crime Rate

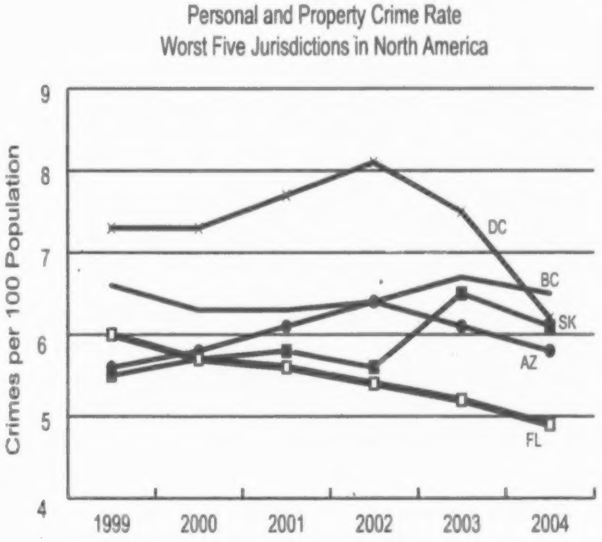
How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked last among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2004. The five top ranked jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2004 crime rates were: New Hampshire (2.2), North Dakota (2.0), South Dakota (2.1), Newfoundland & Labrador (2.6), and Vermont (2.4).

The five bottom ranked jurisdictions were: Florida (4.9), Saskatchewan (6.1), Arizona (5.8), British Columbia (6.5) and the District of Columbia (6.2).



Personal and Property Crime Rate
Best Five Jurisdictions in North America



Personal and Property Crime Rate
Worst Five Jurisdictions in North America

Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100 Population

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 rank	1999 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2004 Average
New Hampshire	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	3	2.3	1
North Dakota	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	1	2.3	2
South Dakota	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2	2.3	3
Newfoundland & Labrador	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	6	2.4	4
Vermont	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.4	4	2.6	5
Florida	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	49	5.5	57
Saskatchewan	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.6	6.5	6.1	59	5.9	58
Arizona	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.4	6.1	5.8	57	6.0	59
British Columbia	**6.6**	**6.3**	**6.3**	**6.4**	**6.7**	**6.5**	**61**	**6.5**	**60**
District of Columbia	7.3	7.3	7.7	8.1	7.5	6.2	60	7.4	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Note: This comparison is based on a subset of the total personal and property crimes used for performance indicator 20. Adjustments have been made to the Canadian data to make it comparable to the US data as outlined in Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE.

Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres

A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police reported crimes. In the preceding pages, the broad categories of violent crime and property crime are used to compare BC to other Canadian provinces and to US States. Beyond these top level categories, detailed information is available by province, state and major metropolitan areas. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data reported in Canada and the United States and found that among eight "offense level" categories of crime, only minor differences existed in seven and one, sexual assault, (Canada) was not comparable to the US category of forcible rape.

The results show that, consistent with ranks reported above for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property crime rate among major* Canadian and American cities. While Vancouver has high property crime rates: the highest break and enter and theft rates, the third-highest motor vehicle theft rate behind Winnipeg and Phoenix and the highest overall rate, it ranks better on violent crimes and has rates well below those found in all the US cities profiled, except for Boston. Vancouver ranked seventh on the homicide rate with 2.6 per 100,000 population, above the national average of 2.0 but about one-quarter of bottom ranked Detroit. A similar pattern shows up for aggravated assault and robbery although the spreads between Vancouver's rate and the bottom ranked cities are not as large. Vancouver's violent crime rate of 335 incidents per 100,000 population earned it a ninth place rank, behind top ranked Boston at 120 incidents per 100,000 population and ahead of bottom ranked Houston with 684.

Crime Rates for Canadian and American Cities, 2004, per 100,000 population

	Violent Crime				Property Crime				Total	Rank (of 18)
	Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft	Total		
Vancouver	**2.6**	**184**	**148**	**335**	**1,325**	**1,104**	**4,167**	**6,596**	**6,931**	**17**
Winnipeg	4.9	254	229	488	1,124	1,932	3,418	6,475	6,963	18
Phoenix	8.0	304	151	462	1,049	1,175	3,254	5,478	5,940	16
Dallas	7.3	306	207	520	1,080	573	3,301	4,954	5,474	14
Edmonton	3.4	176	141	320	1,129	1,018	3,467	5,614	5,934	15
Calgary	1.9	155	91	248	815	457	2,417	3,688	3,937	12
Detroit[1]	10.0	384	176	570	607	821	1,851	3,279	3,849	11
Montreal	1.7	164	150	316	894	663	1,894	3,451	3,767	10
Washington[2]	7.9	230	188	426	457	680	2,191	3,328	3,755	9
Los Angeles	8.6	399	224	632	559	653	1,652	2,864	3,496	8
Ottawa	1.0	121	78	200	663	313	1,756	2,733	2,933	5
Toronto	1.8	141	103	245	449	325	1,436	2,211	2,456	2
New York	5.0	240	199	445	342	280	1,455	2,077	2,521	3
Boston	2.6	258	117	120	443	328	1,556	2,327	2,447	1
British Columbia	2.7	177	108	287	1,258	890	4,158	6,305	6,592	n/a
Canada	2.0	156	86	244	860	531	2,185	3,576	3,820	n/a
US	5.5	291	137	433	730	421	2,366	3,517	3,950	n/a

Sources: Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation; Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE. Notes: [1]2002 rate for motor vehicle theft; [2]2003 rates for break and enter and theft.

Note: *Canadian cities were chosen from Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and American cities were chosen from the similarly defined Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The table above accounts for roughly 85.2 percent of all personal and property crimes reported in the Vancouver CMA in 2004. The Vancouver CMA has a population share of 50.8 percent and accounts for 52.9 percent of BC's personal and property crimes.

The Underground Economy

A portion of BC's economic activity is never recorded in official statistics. The underground portion of the economy includes legal activities that are not reported in order to avoid taxation as well as illegal activities. Although the existence of the underground economy is widely acknowledged, the fact that it is hidden makes determining its size and economic impact difficult.

Statistics Canada estimate of the size of Canada's *legal* underground economy for 1992 was 4.2% of GDP at the time. This narrow definition includes those activities that are legal, but are unreported or underreported. The contractor who offers a reduced price for a cash deal, the server who doesn't report tips, or the person that doesn't fully report earnings are all included – earnings based on *illegal* activity are not. Based on the same methodology, BC Stats estimated British Columbia's *legal* underground economy at an above average 4.7% of GDP. British Columbia has a relatively large service sector which is recognized as offering enhanced *legal* opportunities to under-report. British Columbia's illegal drug industry and the accompanying property crime suggests that the *illegal* portion of the underground economy may also be larger in BC than the Canadian average.

In spite of the measurement difficulties several attempts have been made to estimate the size of the total underground economy in Canada – both legal and illegal. Estimates range from 11.7% to 15.3% of GDP. Applying these estimates for the Canadian average to BC's 2004 GDP, yield an estimated underground economy of between $20.0 and $25.6 billion. To put this in perspective, BC's total international exports were $31.0 billion in 2004, and the provincial government's budget was $30.6 billion dollars in 2004/05.

Underground Economy Estimates for Canada and BC

Source	Year	Size, Percent of GDP	Method of Estimation
Statistics Canada (1994)	1992	2.7% - 4.2%	Direct calculation (National accounts) – measured based on estimates of market-based production of (legal and illegal) goods and services that escape detection in the official estimates of GDP.
BC Stats (1997)	1992	3.0% - 4.7%*	Based on Statistics Canada calculation method; however, does not account for illegal activity.
International Monetary Fund (2000)	1990	11.70%	Based on a physical input method, which calculates the size of underground economy based on how much electricity is being used.
	1996-97	14.90%	Calculated using a money demand estimator.
Giles and Tedds (2005)	2001	15.30%	Multiple Indicator, Multiple Cause model – modified money demand equation.

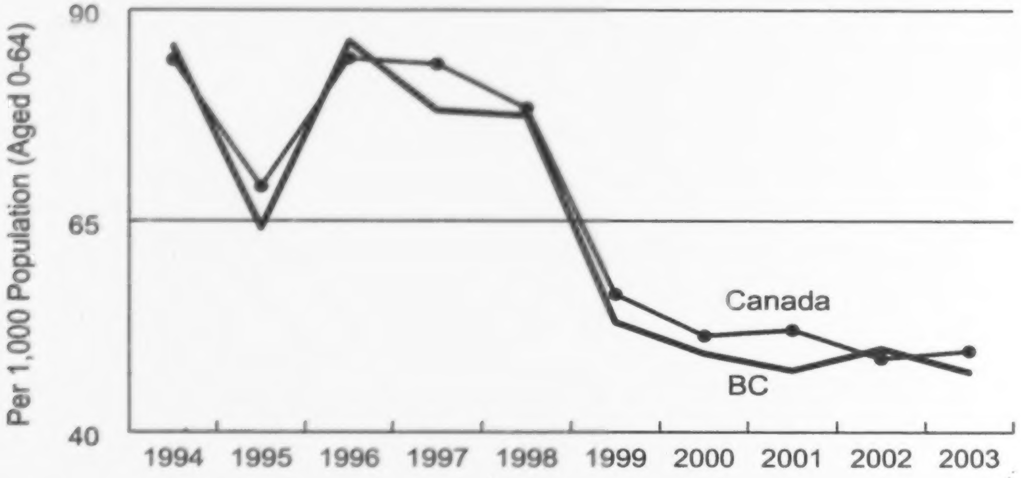
* For BC only. All other estimates for Canada as a whole.

With a large underground economy, citizens who fully and accurately report income are essentially penalized as tax rates are adjusted upwards to reach desired revenue targets with relatively fewer British Columbians paying for public health, education and infrastructure that is enjoyed by all – including those earning income in the underground economy.

Sources: BC Stats (June 13, 1997), Infoline Report: The Size of the Underground Economy; Statistics Canada (1994), The Size of the Underground Economy in Canada, cat. #13-603; International Monetary Fund, (2000) Shadow Economies Around the World: Size, Causes, and Consequences; Lindsay M. Tedds (2005), The Underground Economy in Canada in Bajada and Schneider (2005), Size, Causes and Consequences of the Underground Economy; Giles (October 1999), Cash Conundrum, University of Victoria Viewpoint.

Performance Indicator 25 Income Assistance Environment, Health and Society

Income Assistance Recipients, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

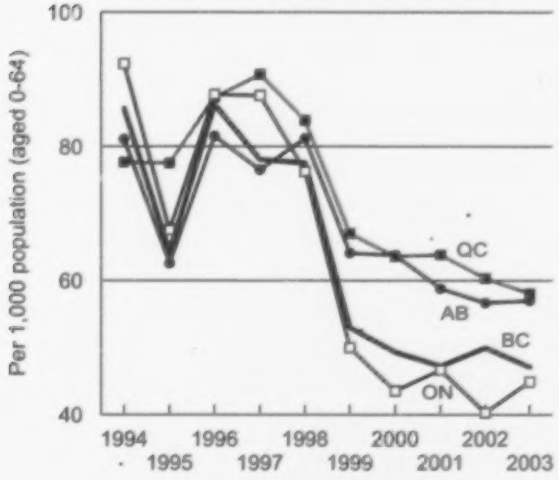
Description

This indicator tracks the number of income assistance beneficiaries per 1,000 population aged 0-64. Income assistance (IA) provides essential income support, employment and training support, and other benefits.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the population collecting income assistance benefits (commonly referred to as welfare) is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction and may also indicate problems in the incentive structure of the income assistance programs available within a jurisdiction.

Provinces - Income Assistance



Where BC Ranks

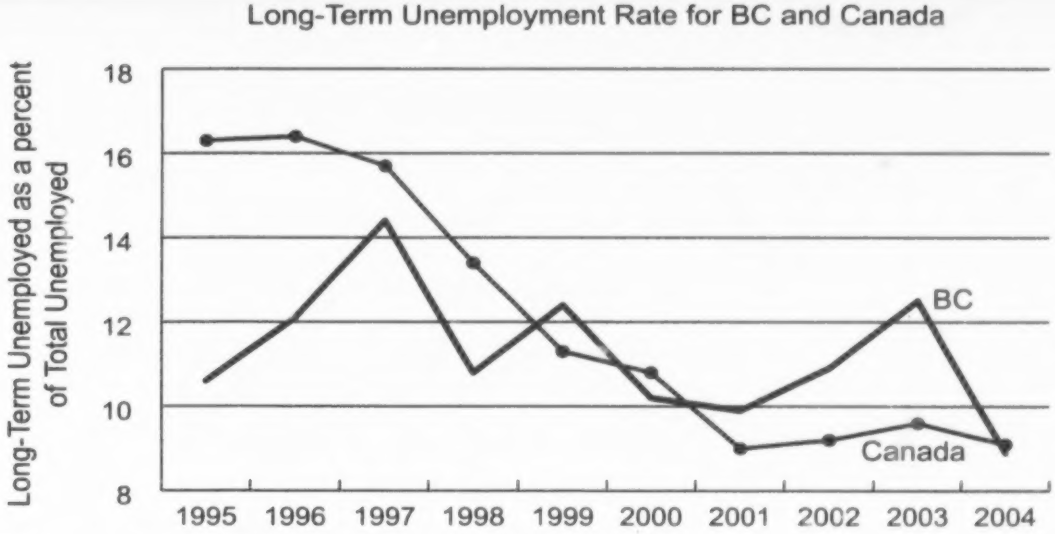
By Province	2000 7th	2001 5th	2002 5th	2003 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 8th	2000-2001 3rd	2001-2002 10th	2002-2003 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 7th	1992-2001 6th	1993-2002 6th	1994-2003 **5th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, BC ranked fifth in Canada with 4.8% of the population under age 65 in receipt of income assistance. This was slightly below the Canadian average of 5.0%. Manitoba had the lowest ratio at 2.8%, followed by Prince Edward Island at 4.2%. The highest ratio, 7.2%, was in Newfoundland and Labrador.

British Columbia experienced a 45.0% decrease in the proportion of people with low income between 1994 and 2003. This was the fourth largest decrease in the country behind: Saskatchewan (61.3%), Manitoba (52.5%) and Ontario (51.4%). Prince Edward Island (2.0%) had the smallest decrease. The percent of Canadians under age 65 in receipt of income assistance fell by 41.1% between 1994 and 2003.

Performance Indicator 26 Long-Term Unemployment Environment, Health and Society



Long-Term Unemployment Rate for BC and Canada

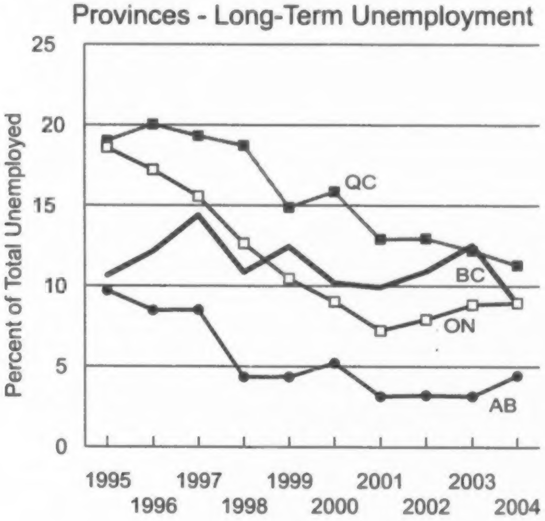
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

Why it's Important

Long-term unemployment generally remains high for several years during economic recoveries, even though the unemployment rate rapidly adjusts downward. The last workers to be laid off are generally the first to return to work when the economic situation improves. In contrast, people who have been unemployed for some time, along with less-skilled workers, tend to represent a larger proportion of the unemployed population.



Provinces - Long-Term Unemployment

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 8th	2002 9th	2003 10th	2004 **8th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 8th	2001-2002 9th	2002-2003 10th	2003-2004 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 10th	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

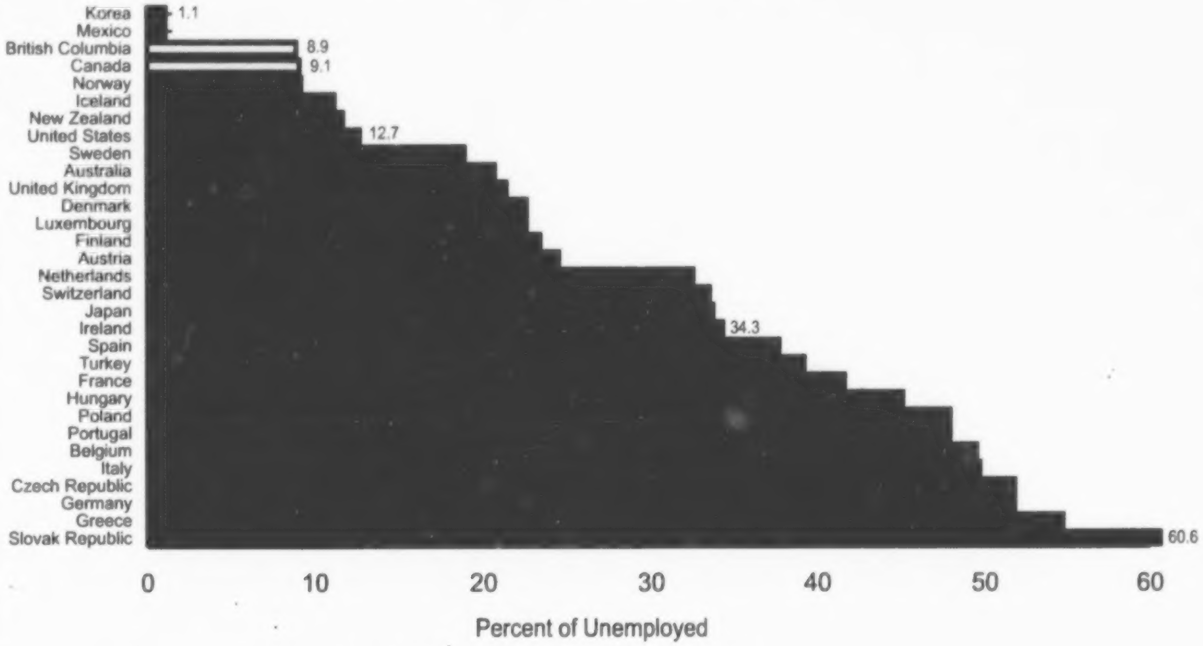
In 1995, BC had the third-lowest ratio of long-term unemployed people in the country at 10.6% of the total unemployed population. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest rate at 24.5% and the Canadian average was 16.3%.

British Columbia's rate peaked at 14.4% in 1997 then generally fell to a relative low of 9.9% in 2001. The rate increased in 2002 and 2003 to reach 12.5% but saw a large drop to 8.9% in 2004. Long-term unemployment rates have fallen across the country since 1995. The largest decrease, 64.1% was in Newfoundland and Labrador. British Columbia had the smallest decrease, 16.4%.

The 52 week threshold has a significant effect on the long-term unemployment rate as Employment Insurance benefits expire. Canada's long-term unemployment rate (53+ weeks) is 4.6%, about half of the 9.1% rate for 52 or more weeks. This may be due to the long-term unemployed returning to work at the 52 week threshold or it may reflect people dropping out of the labour force altogether.

Long-Term Unemployment

Long-Term Unemployment Rates, 2004



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, British Columbia ranked 3rd compared to OECD countries although its rate (8.9%) was much higher than that in Korea or Mexico, which tied for 1st and 2nd ranks with a rate of 1.1 percent. British Columbia saw a significant improvement from its 7th ranked rate of 12.5 percent in 2003.

Canada ranked 4th in 2004 with a long-term unemployment rate of 9.1 percent. This is an improvement over 2003, when Canada ranked 5th with a rate of 9.6 percent.

The **United States** had a long-term unemployment rate of 12.7 percent in 2004, earning it an 8th place rank. This is a deterioration from its 6th ranked 11.8 percent in 2003 and 4th ranked 8.5 percent in 2002.

Both BC and Canada have low long-term unemployment rates compared to OECD countries. Both were well below the total OECD rate of 32.0 percent in 2004, and Canada ranked in the lowest five for 2001 through 2004 inclusive. Except for Norway and Iceland, Europe has much higher long-term unemployment rates on average than non-European OECD members, particularly the Slovak Republic (60.6% in 2004), Greece (54.7%), and Germany and the Czech Republic (51.8% for both).

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2005), OECD Employment Outlook; BC Stats; Statistics Canada Note: This presentation reflects data for Canada and BC which have been revised since the publication of the OECD report. The impact for Canada in 2004 is a drop from 9.5% to 9.1%.

Appendices

A. Board Members, Staff, and Advisory Group Members

Board Members and Staff

Members:

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President
Black Press Ltd.

Mr. Alex A. Campbell
Chair
Thrifty Foods

Mr. Herman Driediger
CEO
Driediger Investments Ltd.

Ms. Eva Lee Kwok
Chair & CEO
Amara International Investment Corporation

Ms. Jill Leversage
Managing Director
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Mr. Jim Shepherd
President & CEO
Canfor Corporation

Mr. Ken Shields
President & CEO
Raymond James Ltd.

Mr. Mark Shuparski
President
Pacific Capital Investments

Mr. Brian Surerus
President
Surerus Pipeline Inc.

Mr. David A. Thompson
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Teck Cominco Ltd.

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Credit Union Central of British Columbia

Dr. Richard Harris
Telus Professor of Economics
Simon Fraser University

Mr. Stuart Mackay
President
MMK Consulting

B. Methodology

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Benchmarking Framework

To implement the benchmarking framework that forms the core of this report it is necessary to create statistical measures of the goals and their determinants. The goals are defined in terms of core target indicators, and the determinants of these core targets are termed performance indicators. Changes in the latter have implications for trends in the core target indicators.

Over the course of the fall of 2001, BC Progress Board staff engaged in an iterative process with the Board itself and its Economic Advisory Group (see Appendix A) to arrive at an array of suitable core target and performance indicators. For measures of environment, health and society, staff consulted with knowledgeable government officials. Following feedback on the 2001 and 2002 reports, the Progress Board has made some minor adjustments. To the extent possible, the selection of core target and performance indicators was conducted in accordance with the following criteria:

- The measures must provide timely cross-jurisdictional comparisons;
- The measures must represent an unbiased reporting of the condition (that is, they should be based on neutral and credible third party information);
- The measures should be consistent through time and across jurisdictions; and,
- Generally, the measures must not be collinear with other variables (that is, they should not simply replicate information presented in another measure).

An additional consideration governing the selection of measures for inclusion in the benchmarking exercise continues to be the Board's desire to keep the number of indicators small enough to make the exercise manageable and relatively easy to understand. The set of measures comprised of "core targets" and "performance indicators" that formed the body of the initial benchmarking report will be tracked from year to year.

To provide an indication of how BC compares with other jurisdictions as well as vis-à-vis its own past performance, we have organized the indicators in this report into three "Progress Measures":

- *Rank by Province* – assesses BC's standing or performance relative to other jurisdictions in the most recent year for which data are available for the indicator. Each jurisdiction is given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst" with 1 signifying the best;
- *One Year Progress Check* – provides a rank based on progress (or rate of change) recorded dur-

ing the most recent year for which data are available relative to the previous year. Each jurisdiction is again given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst"; and,

- *Period Progress Rank* – provides a rank based on progress experienced in each jurisdiction over a longer time period (the average annual rate of progress over the period). Each jurisdiction is again ranked from "best" to "worst" using an ordinal rank with 1 for the best progress.

Supplemental US Comparisons: Benchmarking Framework

To provide an indication of how BC compares with US jurisdictions, the report contains supplemental information on seven jurisdictions: BC, Alberta, Quebec, Ontario, Washington, Oregon and California. Here too, the data is organized around three Progress Measures:

- Rank by Jurisdiction – assesses BC's performance relative to other jurisdictions in the most recent year for which data is available for the indicator. Each jurisdiction is given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst" with 1 signifying the best among the seven jurisdictions reviewed in this part of the report;
- One Year Progress Check – provides a rank based on progress (or the rate of change) experienced in the most recent year for which data is available relative to the previous year. Each jurisdiction is again given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst"; and,
- Period Progress Rank – provides a rank based on progress experienced in each jurisdiction over a longer time period (the average annual rate of progress over the period). Each jurisdiction is again ranked from "best" to "worst" using an ordinal rank with 1 for the best progress.

One of the difficulties with comparing performance between Canada and the United States is that economic activity is measured in the two countries' respective national currencies. To compare economic performance it is necessary to convert the data into a common currency – whether US or Canadian dollars.

Two measures of the exchange rate are often employed to convert indicators into a common currency. The first is the actual market exchange rate. The second involves using what is known as a Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rate. Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are the rates of currency conversion that eliminate the differences in price levels between countries. Per capita volume indices based on PPP converted data reflect only differences in the volume of goods and services produced.

To provide additional information on British Columbia's relative position within North America, several supplemental US comparisons have been added that include all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in northern North America. These comparisons follow the same general rules as for the seven jurisdiction comparisons but often focus on a longer time frame for determining ranks.

International Performance Indicators

As Canada is a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) it is relatively easy to get consistent data for Canada and the other member countries. Comparing British Columbia's performance introduces some challenges, but none that cannot be dealt with.

The basic approach for data in this section is to start with the OECD data and adjust the BC data to match it. This produces data that does not match data reported in the main benchmarking section because of differences in base years (usually 1995 for international data vs. 1997 for BC data) and base currencies (US currency is the standard for international comparisons while Canadian currency is used elsewhere in this report). We convert to the OECD standard so that we only need to make adjustments to the BC and Canadian data rather than to the entire OECD dataset. The differences between Canadian (and therefore BC) data as reported by Statistics Canada and Canadian data as reported by the OECD are small once base year and currency differences have been factored out.

Within the basic approach there are two alternative methods that produce reasonable results. One, we determine the differences between Canadian data as reported by Statistics Canada and as reported by OECD, then adjust the Statistics Canada data to match the OECD definition (to ensure comparability) and finally, adjust the BC data (in the same manner as the Canadian data was adjusted) to match the OECD definition. The example on the following page employs this technique. Two, we determine the differences between Canadian data as reported by Statistics Canada and as reported by OECD, then adjust the Statistics Canada data to match the OECD definition (to ensure comparability) and finally, estimate BC's international position based on its position within Canada. This method is used when adjustments to the BC data are not possible.

The most recent data available are incorporated into this volume. In cases where OECD databases do not yet reflect recent Statistics Canada updates, the OECD series is updated with the current Statistics Canada data. The following is a detailed example of the steps involved in converting BC data to match OECD data.

Detailed Example: The Road to Real GDP per capita (OECD method)

Data

Statistics Canada 2002 population: BC: 4,115,413; Canada: 31,372,587
Canada's 2002 population (OECD): 31,414,000
OECD price deflator for Canada (to convert nominal data to a real [2000] base): 1.01973
2000 OECD PPP rate for Canada (to convert from local to US dollars): 1.2137
BC's 2002 nominal GDP (SC): $138,368 (millions); less FISIM: $135,086 (millions)
Canada's 2002 nominal GDP (SC): $1,157,968 (millions); less FISIM: $1,140,430
Canada's 2002 nominal GDP (OECD): $1,137,511 (millions)

Difference in Canadian GDP as reported by Statistics Canada and by the OECD

Difference: $20,457 million (1.8%) - mainly attributable to the fact that the OECD does not include "financial services indirectly measured (FISIM)". FISIM are imputations made for services provided by financial intermediaries for which they make no specific charge. After accounting for FISIM the difference becomes $2,919 million (0.3%) and is due to the difference between Statistics Canada's preliminary and final GDP data.

Calculations

Canada's 2002 real GDP per capita (OECD method): $29,371 (2000 prices and PPPs - $US)

$$\$29{,}371 = \left[\frac{1{,}140{,}430{,}000{,}000}{1.2137}\right] \times \left[\frac{1}{1.01973 \times 31{,}372{,}587}\right]$$

BC's 2002 real GDP per capita (OECD method): $26,522 (1995 prices and PPPs - $US)

$$\$26{,}522 = \left[\frac{1{,}135{,}086{,}000{,}000}{1.2137}\right] \times \left[\frac{1}{1.01973 \times 4{,}115{,}413}\right]$$

Additions and Changes

Below is a list of the additions and changes to the 2005 benchmarking Report relative to the 2004 Report released in December 2004. Throughout the report, there are technical notes outlining specific changes and alterations to individual indicators.

Additions to the 2005 Reporting Structure Relevant to Volume I:

- New performance indicators have been added to the Environment, Health and Society section:
    - Cancer Mortality
    - Cardiovascular Disease Mortality
    - Infant Mortality
    - Potential Years of Life Lost
    - Income Assistance
    - Long-Term Unemployment
- New or substantially revised Topic Boxes on the following subjects are included:
    - Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade
    - Head Offices
    - Immigration in BC and Canada
    - Education and Technology: Access to Computers at School
    - Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training
    - Canada and US Comparative University Completion
    - Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization
    - Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide
    - Productivity and R&D Expenditures
    - High Skill Employment and Innovation
    - British Columbia and Species at Risk
    - The New Health Outcomes Index
    - Comparative Wait Times
    - Preventive Health Care
    - The New Social Condition Index
    - Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia
    - The Underground Economy

Changes to the 2004 Reporting Structure Relevant to Volume I:

- Wastewater Treatment has been dropped from Core Target 4: Environmental Quality because the data are not of sufficient quality for the comparisons we need to make.
- Life expectancy at birth has been replaced as Core Target 5: Health Outcomes in favour of an index which includes the following variables: life expectancy, cancer mortality, cardiovascular mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost.
- Similarly, the low income cut-off rate has been replaced as Core Target 6: Social Condition in favour of an index which includes the following variables: low income cut-offs, low birth weight rate, personal and property crime, income assistance and long-term unemployment.
- Some 2004 Topic Boxes have been removed for a variety of reasons: there is no new data available, there is no new research to report on, the comparison was converted to a new performance indicator, or other topics were deemed to be of higher priority this

year. The boxes are:

- Who and How: Top International Growth Jurisdictions
- Exports: Performance Factors, Border Risk and Seizing New Opportunities
- Math, Reading, Science and Problem Solving Scores
- Technology Transfer and Patents
- Internet Connectivity and Technology Diffusion
- The Innovation Equation
- Potential Years of Life Lost
- Citizen Participation: Voter Turnout
- Mortality From Cardiovascular Disease
- Crime Rate Changes in the G7
- Top Five Crime Jurisdictions in Canada and the United States

- Brief overviews of these Topic Boxes are included starting on page 159. The Topic Boxes remain on our website.
- Two provincial - state comparisons have been dropped (Tax Burden and Surplus/Deficit as a Percent of GDP) for this year because the US data have not been updated and the most recent US data is too old to allow useful comparisons. Data are expected in time for the 2006 Report.

List of Acronyms

Provinces:

- British Columbia – BC
- Alberta – AB
- Saskatchewan – SK
- Manitoba – MB
- Ontario – ON
- Quebec – QC
- New Brunswick – NB
- Nova Scotia – NS
- Prince Edward Island – PE
- Newfoundland and Labrador – NF

States:

- California – CA
- Oregon – OR
- Washington State – WA

International:

- OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Statistical:

- BLS – Bureau of Labor Statistics (US)
- BEA – Bureau of Economic Analysis (US)
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (US)
- DHSS – Department of Health and Human Services (US)
- IRS – Internal Revenue Service (US)
- FMS – Statistics Canada's Financial Management System
- GFCF – Gross Fixed Capital Formation
- R&D – Research and Development
- GERD – Gross Expenditures on Research and Development

OECD Member Countries

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Luxembourg
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovak Republic
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

C. Glossary of Terms

Economy, Innovation and Education

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita ($1997)

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is a measure of current economic output expressed on a per person basis. GDP is the value added to the economy by the current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents (who may purchase and sell goods and services to British Columbians). The provincial GDP includes all activities that take place within its borders. The "real" or constant dollar estimates are inflation adjusted and expressed in terms of a base year, in this case, 1997. Constant dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of specific goods and services relative to 1997. Thus "real" GDP measures real change in the size of the economy by excluding the change which is the result of inflation. The July 1 population estimate is used to calculate the per capita values.

Real Personal Disposable Income (PDI) Per Capita ($1997)

Real Personal Disposable Income (PDI) per capita is the value, adjusted to remove the effects of inflation, of personal income left after the payment of income tax, contributions to social insurance plans (e.g., employment insurance premiums) and various other transfers to government such as medical insurance premiums, expressed on a per person basis. Personal income includes all income received by individuals (and societies of individuals such as trusteed pension plans) who are resident in the province, whether earned at home or elsewhere. This includes both earnings and transfer income: wages and salaries; employer contributions to pensions, EI, CPP, WCB etc; net income of farm operators and unincorporated businesses; interest and miscellaneous investment income; government transfers such as welfare, OAS and EI benefits; and transfers from corporations (e.g., forgiveness of bad debts) and individuals. Constant (real) dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of consumer goods and services relative to 1997. The July 1 population estimate is used to calculate the per capita values.

Employment to Population Ratio (15 to 64)

The employment to population ratio (15 to 64) is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 (i.e., working for pay or profit. doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Average Hourly Earnings

Average hourly earnings are based on payroll and hours worked data for employees whose basic wage is expressed as an hourly rate. (About half of employees fall into this category). Information is gathered from all employers in Canada for whom T-4 Supplementary Forms must be completed, except for those in agriculture, fishing and trapping, private household services, religious organizations and military personnel. Data is collected for the last pay week of each month and annual figures are the weighted averages of the twelve monthly surveys. Average hourly earnings are calculated by dividing the total weekly payroll (for employees paid by the hour) by the total weekly paid hours for those employees. Payroll is the gross amount before deductions for income tax, EI, CPP etc. and includes overtime pay, bonuses and other special payments. Excluded are taxable benefits and employer contributions to pension plans, EI, CPP etc. Employee numbers include both full and part-time/part-week.

Labour Productivity (Business Sector)
Labour productivity is a measure of the overall efficiency of the economy. It is calculated as the ratio of constant dollar GDP (or output) in the business sector to total worker-hours (a measure of the quantity of labour used in production). Worker-hours are equal to the number of people employed times average hours worked in a year.

The labour productivity estimates are for the business sector, which includes all industries in the economy except for government, health care, education, and the imputed rental income component of GDP. These industries are excluded because their output (or much of their output) is not a service that is bought or sold so it has no market valuation. GDP measures for these industries are largely based on wage data so by definition, there can be little or no productivity growth. Imputed rental income is excluded because it is a measure of the potential rental income that is foregone by homeowners who choose to live in, rather than rent out, their property, and does not have any corresponding employment.

Although labour productivity measures are commonly used because they are relatively easy to calculate, they are an imperfect measure of productivity change over time. Labour, capital and technological change all play a role in economic growth. Labour productivity change may be the result of either more efficient use of labour inputs, or changes in the amount or efficiency with which capital inputs (such as machinery and equipment) are used in production.

When comparing productivity among jurisdictions, it is important to take into account differences in industrial structure as some industries by their very nature will have higher labour productivity than others. For example, labour productivity in personal service industries will by definition be lower than in an industry such as oil refining, where production is capital intensive.

Total Exports per Capita ($1997)
Total exports per capita is the ratio of the total value of exports in a given calendar year to the population as of July 1st in that year. Exports include all types of goods and services that are produced in a given province but consumed outside its boundaries. Service exports are primarily services such as transportation, storage and insurance, which are provided to non-residents who export or import goods that are transported through a province, or enter or leave the country through its customs ports. Provinces engage in trade with other regions of Canada, as well as with international trading partners, so both inter-provincial and international exports are included in the total.

Taxpayer-Supported Debt to GDP
The appropriate measure of net public debt burden is in relation to the size of the gross domestic product (GDP). Taxpayer-supported debt includes government direct debt, and the guaranteed and non-guaranteed debt of taxpayer-supported Crown corporations and agencies that require a subsidy from the provincial government.

Per Capita Tax Burden (Consolidated Provincial and Local Governments - FMS)
Estimates of the per capita tax burden include the following (on a per person basis):

- Income taxes (personal, corporate, and specific mining and logging taxes)
- Consumption taxes (sales taxes, taxes on alcohol, tobacco, gasoline and motive fuels, amusement taxes, and profits from liquor and gaming operations)
- Property taxes (taxes on land and capital)
- Other taxes (payroll taxes, fees for motor vehicle licenses, natural resource taxes and licenses, and other miscellaneous taxes)
- Health insurance premiums
- Contributions to social insurance plans.

Top Marginal Tax Rate
To arrive at the top marginal personal income tax rate, the peak marginal tax rate at the provincial level is added to the peak rate set by the federal government.

Provincial Deficit/Surplus Levels
A deficit is an excess of expenditure over government revenue, while a surplus is an excess of revenue over expenditure.

Net Inter-provincial Migration
Net inter-provincial migration is the difference between the number of those moving to British Columbia from the rest of Canada and those leaving British Columbia to take up residence elsewhere in Canada.

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (Business Investment)
Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation is a measure of business spending on machinery and equipment, building and engineering construction. Also included is the value of current residential construction, alterations and improvements to existing buildings and property transfer costs (such as real estate commissions and property transfer taxes). The constant dollar estimates are inflation adjusted and expressed in terms of a base year, in this case, 1997. Constant dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of these goods and services relative to 1997. Gross Fixed Capital Formation is a component of the Gross Domestic Product.

Secondary School Graduation Rate
The secondary school graduation rate is the number of students graduating from secondary schools per 1,000 population 18 years of age (at July 1 each year). For graduation, the year indicated is the end of the academic year. Secondary school graduations for Quebec include graduates from adult and trade/vocational programs. Graduates of night school and correspondence courses for Ontario adults are excluded. Public, private and federal schools are included.

University Completion Rate
The university completion rate is the number of persons aged 25 to 54 with a university degree expressed as a percentage of the population between 25 and 54 years of age. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Research and Development as a Percent of GDP
Research and Development (R & D) as a percent of GDP is the sum of expenditures reported by (or estimated for) performing sectors - government, business, higher education and private non-profit organizations - for research and development activity in Canada expressed as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product. The Gross Domestic Product is the value added to the economy by the current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents.

Natural and Applied Sciences Employment as a Percent of Total Employment
Natural and applied sciences employment as a percent of total employment is the number of persons employed in occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences expressed as a percentage of total employment. Included are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts and programmers and associated technical occupations. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Financial Management System (FMS) - Government Sector

Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) is an accounting system for government statistics that puts data for federal, provincial and local governments on a consistent basis by using the same definition of government for all jurisdictions. Data are based on public accounts estimates, and budget information released by the various levels of government, but have been reworked to include all agencies that are under the direct control of the government, whether or not their activities have been reported in the public accounts of the various jurisdictions.

Provincial government data includes, in addition to government ministries or departments, agencies such as the Workers' Compensation Board, financing authorities, and other agencies of government such as the BC Assessment Authority in the case of British Columbia. By including all government-controlled agencies, it is possible to make more meaningful comparisons of the footprint governments leave in each jurisdiction.

Consolidated provincial/local figures have been amalgamated to ensure that inter-governmental transfers between provincial and local governments are not double-counted.

Environment, Health and Society

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of remaining years of life at birth based on current mortality rates.

Low Income Incidence

Low income cut-offs (LICOs) are established using data from the Family Expenditure Survey, now known as the Survey of Household Spending. They convey the income level at which a family may be in straitened circumstances because it has to spend a greater proportion of its income on necessities than the average family of similar size. Specifically, the threshold is defined as the income below which a family is likely to spend 20 percentage points more of its income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. There are separate cut-offs for seven sizes of family – from unattached individuals to families of seven or more persons – and for five community sizes – from rural areas to urban areas with a population of more than 500,000.

The first step in the production of a set of low income cut-offs is to calculate the average proportion of income that a family spends on food, shelter and clothing. The 1992 Family Expenditure Survey found that, on average, families spend 44% of their after-tax income (and 35% of their total "before-tax" income) on these necessities. Then, 20 percentage points are added, giving 64% of after-tax income. This is done on the grounds that a family spending more than this proportion of its income on necessities is significantly worse off than the average family. The final step is to look at the distribution of income by expenditure and determine, using a regression line, the level of income at which a family tends to spend 20 percentage points more than the average on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing.

Low income incidence is the ratio (prevalence) of families and unattached individuals in low income (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Air Quality

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulates in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Most air quality monitors measure fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Provinces began to measure $PM_{2.5}$ data in 2001.

Direct costs to health care resulting from poor air quality may be significant. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. Monitoring for particulates is relatively new in Canada and most continuous monitoring stations do not have more than 5 or 6 years of data.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita

The number of tonnes of greenhouse gases which are emitted per person. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide.

Protected Areas

Protected areas refer to the strictest level of protection (e.g., national parks and ecological reserves). Refer to The World Conservation Union (IUCN) for the various categories of protection. The data for this indicator are generated through an automated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) routine which assesses ecological representation by protected areas in Canada using a landscape-based gap analysis methodology. For more information on the methodology see: Development of an automated GIS routine to assess ecological representation by protected areas in Canada using a landscape-based gap analysis methodology, World Wildlife Fund Canada.

Cancer Mortality Rate

The cancer mortality rate is the number of deaths due to cancer per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population. Death rates are standardized to allow comparisons of regions with differing age structures.

Cardiovascular System Mortality Rate

The number of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system (cardiovascular-diseases of the heart and stroke) as the underlying cause of death per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population. Death rates are standardized to allow comparisons of regions with differing age structures.

Potential Years of Life Lost

Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is an indicator of premature mortality. PYLL represents the number of years lost when a person dies 'prematurely'. For the purposes of PYLL calculation, premature death is defined to be any death between the ages of 0 and 74 and is the sum of the differences between the actual age at death and age 75. This method gives greater weight to deaths that occur at younger ages than to those at older ages, and can vary according to gender, socio-economic status, and geographic region. The PYLL Standardized Rate is an age-standardized measure of a population's PYLL, given in terms of a rate per 1,000 population. It is adjusted relative to a standard population (the 1991 Canada population estimate), thus allowing for spatial or temporal comparisons.

Low Birth Weight

The low birth weight rate is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births.

Personal and Property Crime

The personal and property crime rate is the number of incidents, based on the most serious offence, known to the police, expressed as a rate per 100,000 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Excluded are traffic incidents resulting in death or bodily harm. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence (e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods).

Topic Boxes

Effective Tax Rate

Effective tax rates (ETR) presented in this volume employ the user cost of capital approach to compute a summary measure of the distorting effects of taxation on capital accumulation. The user cost of capital is the economic cost of acquiring and holding the last, or marginal, unit of capital. The rates presented in the business tax competitiveness topic box are from a C.D. Howe Institute paper (full reference in the topic box). The authors define their effective tax rate on investments for medium- and large-sized companies as the amount of federal and provincial corporate income, capital and sales taxes on investments as a percentage of profits sufficient to attract equity and bond finance from Canadian and international markets.

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Body mass index (BMI), Canadian standard, which relates weight to height, is a common method of determining if an individual's weight is in a healthy range based on their height. Body mass index (BMI), Canadian standard, is calculated as follows: weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared. The index is: under 20.0 (underweight), 20.0-24.9 (acceptable weight), 25.0-27.0 (some excess weight) and higher than 27.0 (overweight). It is measured for the population aged 20 to 64 excluding pregnant women and persons less than 3 feet (0.914 metres) tall or greater than 6 feet 11 inches (2.108 metres).

Police Reported Crime Rate

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) collects information only on those crimes that come to the attention of the police. The UCR data, therefore, do not contain a count of all crimes in Canada: some crimes are never detected and, of those that are, some are never brought to the attention of the police. Police Services are the respondents. The response rate in terms of police respondents complying with the UCR Survey is virtually 100 percent. There are approximately 1,200 separate police detachments responding to the survey, comprising about 230 different police forces.

Supplemental Information: US Comparisons

Real Per Capita GDP

The data for this indicator includes nominal Gross State Product (GSP), which is a similar concept to provincial GDP in Canada. The nominal data is converted to real using the implicit GSP price deflator (rebased to 1997 from 1996). The real GSP data is converted to 1997 Canadian dollars using the OECD PPP exchange rate for 1997.

Note: When "GDP" is used below it refers to the "GSP" data described above.

Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau.

Real Disposable Income Per Capita

Personal disposable income by state is converted to a 1997 base and then converted to 1997 Canadian dollars using the 1997 OECD PPP exchange rate.

Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau.

Employment Rate

This ratio is computed by dividing total employment for an area by its population aged 16 and older.

There have been changes the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) that underlay the comparisons. The following notes provide an overview of the changes.

A number of changes have occurred in LAUS estimates with the implementation of the LAUS

Redesign on March 10. In order to provide the most useful data series with as few discontinuities as possible, the historical series for all areas have been adjusted as far back as practical.

Modeled Areas
The statistical models used for developing statewide LAUS estimates have been replaced with new, third-generation models, featuring real-time benchmarking to monthly national Current Population Survey (CPS) employment and unemployment totals. The models produce seasonally adjusted estimates within the estimation model, as well as not seasonally adjusted estimates, and measures of error. The benchmark changes from annual State-level CPS estimates of employment and unemployment to monthly national-level CPS estimates.

As part of the Redesign, the historical series have been revised back to 1976 for regions, division, States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, New York City, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA metropolitan division, and the respective balances of New York and California. Labor force estimates using the new modeling techniques also are being applied to six new sub-state areas. The revised historical series now date back to 1983 for the following areas – Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL metropolitan division; Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH metropolitan statistical area; Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI metropolitan statistical area; Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, FL metropolitan division; New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA metropolitan statistical area; and Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA metropolitan division.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; US Census Bureau.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate
To arrive at the top marginal personal income tax rate, the peak marginal tax rate at the state level (if there is a state tax) is added to the peak federal marginal tax rate.
Data Sources: US Internal Revenue Service; California Franchise Tax Board; Oregon Department of Revenue; Washington State Department of Revenue.

Net Inter-state Migration
Inter-state migration is measured relative to the population of the respective state. A ratio above zero indicates a net addition to the population. A ratio below zero indicates a net decline in the population.
Data Source: US Census Bureau.

Research and Development
Research and development expenditures represent total private and public industrial expenditures on research and development. The indicator is R & D spending as a percent of GDP.
Data Source: US National Science Foundation.

Air Quality
Air quality is defined as the number of particulates under 10 or 2.5 microns per cubic meter of air. Particulate matter is seen as a health hazard since it can settle in the lungs and over time result in cardiovascular disease. Poor air quality is especially a risk to the elderly and those with existing breathing problems.
Data Source: US Environmental Protection Agency.

Low Birth Weight
Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) are classified as low birth weight infants. The low birth weight rate is calculated as the number of low birth weight infants per 1,000 live births.
Data Source: US Department of Health and Human Services.

Personal and Property Crime
The violent and property crime rate is based on the number of reported crimes per 100,000 people. Personal (violent) crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault but leaves out assault level 1 (common assault, the most frequent assault charge) as well as sexual assaults because the Canadian and US data are not comparable for these categories. Property crime includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle, and theft.
Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Exchange Rate
The PPP exchange rate, which is published by the OECD, measures the average price of all goods and services produced in a country relative the price of goods and services produced in the United States. The goods and services covered are those that make up a country's GDP. The PPP is different from the actual Canada-United States exchange rate, which measures the cost in Canadian dollars of purchasing a United States dollar. The PPP exchange rate is used to remove the effect of differences in the general price level between countries.
Data Source: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Supplemental Information: International Comparisons

At the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)
"At the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)" refers to the fact that the data have been converted to 2000 US dollars using the OECD's 2000 purchasing power parity exchange rate for GDP (national currency per US dollar) and the OECD's country-specific, price indices.

Real GDP per capita
Real GDP per capita is referenced as "Gross domestic product, per head at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)" in the OECD database. Gross domestic product is an aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs). The sum of the final uses of goods and services (all uses except intermediate consumption) measured in purchasers' prices, less the value of imports of goods and services, or the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units. British Columbian and Canadian data are adjusted to make them comparable as described in Appendix B.
Further information is available on the OECD website: www.oecd.org.
Data Source: National Accounts, Comparative Tables Based on PPP, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Employment Rate
Employment rate represents persons in employment as a percentage of the population of working age (15- 64 years). The population group surveyed for this indicator varies slightly among OECD countries. Canada's definition matches the OECD standard of 15 to 64 years old but several countries report data based on the 16 to 64 year old age group. These countries are: Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. These differences likely have a minimal effect on the analysis in this report, other things being equal.
Data Source: Economic Outlook, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Exports
Exports of goods and services consist of sales, barter, or gifts or grants, of goods and services from residents to non-residents. International Exports of Goods and Services as reported by the OECD

are roughly equivalent to "Exports of Goods and Services to Other Countries" as reported in Statistics Canada's Provincial Economic Accounts. "Financial Intermediation of Services Indirectly Measured" is removed from the Statistics Canada raw export data to make it consistent with the OECD definition. The conversion to US dollars is equivalent to the conversion for Real GDP per capita presented above.

Data Source: National Accounts, Volume I – Main Aggregates, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

In the OECD National Accounts, gross fixed capital formation is measured by the total value of a producer's acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the accounting period plus certain additions to the value of non- produced assets (such as subsoil assets or major improvements in the quantity, quality or productivity of land) realized by the productive activity of institutional units.

Note: The data used in the international comparison differ from that presented in the Canadian comparisons (Performance Indicator 9). The OECD calculates this ratio using nominal data while Performance Indicator 9 makes use of real data (i.e., nominal GFCF to nominal GDP in the OECD data and real GFCF to real GDP in the Canadian data). The main reason for using real data in the Canadian comparisons is to remove the differential effects of inflation. Over time, the differential effects of inflation can be a problem if inflation is more prevalent in one series (GFCF in the numerator, for example) than in the other series (GDP in the denominator, for example).

Data Source: Quarterly National Accounts, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

R&D Expenditures

Research and development expenditure is the money spent on creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge and the use of this knowledge to devise new applications. No adjustments to the BC and Canadian R&D spending data are made other than to update the OECD data. The BC and Canadian GDP figures are adjusted as described above and in Appendix B.

Data Source: Basic Science and Technology Statistics, Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development by Sector of Performance and Source of Funds, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels. No adjustments were made to the BC or Canadian data.

Data Source: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. The gases included are: Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6). The United Nations data do not match the Environment Canada data exactly. The difference is small however (0.15%, on average) and is smaller than the average discrepancy between Environment Canada's "sum of provinces" and "Canada" data.

Data Source: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Low Birth Weight

The percentage of infants with a birth-weight of less than 2,500 grams. Statistics Canada data for British Columbia and Canada were rounded (to decrease accuracy) to match the data presented by the UN.

Data Source: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Topic Boxes That Have Been Removed

Who and How? Top International Growth Jurisdictions

British Columbia competes with nations and sub-national jurisdictions across the globe. Successful competitors have relied on different strengths and policies. Despite the differences, there are certainly similarities among OECD nations that have enjoyed rapid and sustained economic growth in recent decades.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Who_How.pdf

BC's GDP by Industry: The Last 20 Years

British Columbia's economy has become more diversified by shifting away from natural resource extraction and processing industries in favour of "new" manufacturing and the service sector. However, BC's resource sector is still a large part of the provincial economy; half of the province's goods production is based on the extraction or processing of agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining products.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com//2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_BC_GDP_Industry.pdf

Exports: Performance Factors, Border Risk and Seizing New Opportunities

Canada and British Columbia have always been, and continue to be, dependent on the US as our main trading partner and the market for the overwhelming majority of our exports. Like Canada, BC's dependence on the US market has increased from 53.0% in 1993 to 66.3% in 2003, while trade to Japan, the Pacific Rim, and Europe has declined in the same period. While this relationship with the world's largest economy is highly beneficial to BC and Canada, lack of market diversification also puts our economy in a precarious and dependent position.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Exports_Performance.pdf

Math, Reading, Science and Problem Solving Scores

British Columbia performs well on Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) testing earning the second rank in reading, fourth in mathematics, fifth in both science and problem solving. British Columbia's average rank of 4.0 places it behind only Finland with an average rank of 1.5 and Korea with an average rank of 2.8. Canada's average rank was 8.3. Tunisia had the lowest average rank of 40.8, having ranked second-last on math and last on reading, science and problem solving.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Math_Reading.pdf

Technology Transfer and Patents

A complement to R&D investment is BC's success at commercializing technology developed within university settings. Results from the Association of University Technology Managers' most recent licensing survey shows that BC universities that are among the top 15 institutions in terms of sponsored research expenditure are among the most successful in Canada in two key measures of technology transfer. Simon Fraser University (SFU) ranked 2nd among the 15 universities for the ratio of US patents issued per million dollars of research and the University of British Columbia (UBC) was 3rd;

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Technology_Transfer.pdf

Internet Connectivity and Technology Diffusion

Internet access is growing quickly in Canada. British Columbia, at 70.6 percent in 2003, had the highest percentage of households connected to the internet; the Canadian average was 64.2%.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Internet_Connectivity.pdf

The Innovation Equation

Innovation provides for the development of new technologies, ideas and business processes – all of which play an integral role in increasing productivity and GDP growth relative to competing jurisdictions.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_The_Innovation_Eq.pdf

Potential Years of Life Lost

Potential Years of Life Lost represents the number of years lost when a person dies prematurely. British Columbia ranked first in terms of Potential Years of Life Lost in 2002 with an indicator value of 48.4 years per 1,000 population, ahead of Ontario at 48.8 and Quebec at 52.4.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Potential_Years_Life.pdf

Citizen Participation: Voter Turnout

Voter turnout has dropped by roughly 10% over the past decade in most nations, marking an unprecedented change in civic involvement levels. To get a sense of how BC measures up within a Canadian context, British Columbia is examined relative to overall Canadian voter turnout, along with Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Citizen_Participation.pdf

Mortality from Cardiovascular Disease

Cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke) is the leading reason for hospitalization for men and women (excluding childbirth). Cardiovascular disease is the cause of death of over one-third of Canadians. It not only affects the elderly but is also the third leading cause of premature death under age 75. British Columbia has the lowest mortality rate from cardiovascular disease in Canada at 206 people per 100,000 population (1999).

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2004Report/Annual/TBoxes/TB_Cardiovascular.pdf

D. Data Tables

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Economy, Innovation and Education

CT1: Real GDP per capita ($1997)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
BC	28,645	28,614	28,968	29,094	29,816	30,983	30,875	31,667	32,227	33,129	4
AB	35,936	36,129	37,825	38,861	38,678	40,318	40,321	40,537	41,225	42,386	1
SK	26,889	27,537	28,640	29,875	30,018	31,011	30,949	31,022	32,250	33,358	3
MB	24,645	25,289	26,186	27,265	27,574	28,627	28,760	29,193	29,560	30,025	6
ON	31,058	31,023	32,004	33,141	35,201	36,722	36,710	37,236	37,330	37,883	2
QC	25,041	25,192	25,902	26,647	28,193	29,281	29,556	30,161	30,591	31,062	5
NB	22,015	22,134	22,384	23,266	24,717	25,239	25,680	26,795	27,221	27,746	8
NS	20,912	20,967	21,843	22,671	23,864	24,596	25,419	26,433	26,621	26,955	9
PE	20,148	20,545	20,572	21,558	22,392	22,794	22,521	23,771	24,064	24,409	10
NF	19,232	18,590	19,116	20,571	21,963	23,335	23,976	28,037	29,840	29,477	7
Canada	28,444	28,603	29,516	30,471	31,896	33,253	33,484	34,131	34,494	35,167	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT1: Growth Rate of Real GDP per capita (Percent)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	Period Progress Rank
BC	(0.4)	(0.1)	1.2	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.6	1.8	2.8	3	10
AB	1.9	0.5	4.7	2.7	(0.5)	4.2	0.0	0.5	1.7	2.8	2	9
SK	0.7	2.4	4.0	4.3	0.5	3.3	(0.2)	0.2	4.0	3.4	1	6
MB	(0.3)	2.6	3.5	4.1	1.1	3.8	0.5	1.5	1.3	1.6	5	8
ON	2.3	(0.1)	3.2	3.6	6.2	4.3	(0.0)	1.4	0.3	1.5	7	7
QC	1.3	0.6	2.8	2.9	5.8	3.9	0.9	2.0	1.4	1.5	6	5
NB	3.1	0.5	1.1	3.9	6.2	2.1	1.7	4.3	1.6	1.9	4	3
NS	1.5	0.3	4.2	3.8	5.3	3.1	3.3	4.0	0.7	1.3	9	2
PE	5.6	2.0	0.1	4.8	3.9	1.8	(1.2)	5.5	1.2	1.4	8	4
NF	3.5	(3.3)	2.8	7.6	6.8	6.3	2.7	16.9	6.4	(1.2)	10	1
Canada	1.7	0.6	3.2	3.2	4.7	4.3	0.7	1.9	1.1	2.0	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT2: Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	18,829	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,832	19,909	20,182	3	6	10
AB	19,045	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,596	22,742	23,652	1	2	1
SK	16,118	16,735	15,745	16,260	16,793	17,155	17,201	17,275	17,944	18,761	6	1	2
MB	17,368	17,556	17,194	17,833	17,959	18,346	18,615	18,608	18,734	18,962	5	7	9
ON	19,723	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,502	21,751	21,883	2	10	8
QC	16,834	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,775	19,063	19,366	4	5	4
NB	16,106	15,990	15,991	16,610	17,159	17,423	17,739	17,718	17,922	18,045	8	9	5
NS	16,513	16,210	16,480	17,064	17,562	17,772	18,101	18,257	18,289	18,433	7	8	6
PE	15,816	15,465	15,561	15,867	16,412	16,935	16,917	17,382	17,219	17,549	10	3	7
NF	14,746	14,514	14,426	14,922	15,383	15,839	16,538	16,854	17,325	17,652	9	4	3
Canada	18,299	18,114	18,262	18,636	19,039	19,810	20,142	20,229	20,469	20,762	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT3: Employment Rate (employment to population ratio, 15 to 64 year olds)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	70.5	69.5	69.5	68.5	69.3	70.1	68.9	69.2	70.2	70.9	5	4	10
AB	74.1	74.9	75.6	76.4	76.3	76.6	77.2	77.3	77.9	78.3	1	6	7
SK	72.3	71.9	73.3	73.9	74.2	74.5	73.2	74.6	75.6	75.9	3	7	9
MB	72.8	72.6	73.4	74.4	74.9	75.9	75.9	77.2	76.8	76.7	2	9	8
ON	68.7	68.7	69.4	70.7	72.0	73.0	72.8	72.6	73.5	73.6	4	8	6
QC	63.0	62.4	63.0	64.4	65.8	67.2	67.4	69.2	69.7	70.3	7	5	4
NB	60.8	60.3	60.9	62.1	63.9	64.8	64.6	66.7	66.6	67.7	9	2	2
NS	61.0	60.8	61.4	63.4	64.6	65.5	66.0	66.5	67.6	68.9	8	1	3
PE	64.5	65.5	64.9	66.0	66.1	68.8	68.9	69.4	70.7	70.4	6	10	5
NF	49.6	48.1	48.9	50.7	53.5	53.0	55.3	56.2	57.3	58.0	10	3	1
Canada	67.4	67.2	67.8	68.8	69.9	70.9	70.8	71.4	72.2	72.6	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI1: Real Average Hourly Earnings ($1997)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	16.44	16.50	16.52	16.38	15.99	16.29	16.24	16.02	15.67	15.88	2	8	7
AB	14.65	14.87	15.07	15.69	16.10	15.73	15.57	15.40	14.99	15.35	3	2	5
SK	14.32	14.04	14.36	14.40	14.37	14.33	14.06	13.95	13.81	14.04	7	5	9
MB	14.26	14.06	13.92	13.98	14.07	14.06	13.87	13.95	13.78	14.09	6	3	8
ON	16.19	16.43	16.09	16.27	16.39	16.35	16.20	16.15	15.94	16.18	1	7	6
QC	15.36	15.49	15.41	15.00	14.75	14.82	14.78	14.76	14.32	14.49	5	9	10
NB	13.25	13.57	13.54	13.88	13.85	13.96	13.76	13.75	13.73	13.85	8	10	3
NS	13.05	13.23	13.34	13.82	13.93	14.15	14.06	13.88	13.52	13.76	9	4	4
PE	11.76	12.34	12.08	12.42	12.57	12.17	12.06	12.22	11.81	12.16	10	1	2
NF	13.09	13.73	13.54	14.17	14.42	14.36	14.49	14.59	14.50	14.73	4	6	1
Canada	15.54	15.70	15.58	15.62	15.62	15.63	15.51	15.45	15.13	15.36	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI2: Labour Productivity - Real GDP Per Hour Worked in the Business Sector ($1997 Per Hour)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	28.0	28.1	28.5	28.9	29.3	29.8	31.1	31.8	31.5	31.4	6	7	8
AB	33.9	33.5	34.4	35.3	35.2	36.5	35.6	36.1	35.9	36.2	1	4	9
SK	25.9	27.1	27.6	28.8	29.1	30.0	30.1	29.9	31.1	32.0	5	1	3
MB	23.9	24.4	24.8	26.1	26.0	27.2	27.7	28.3	28.4	29.0	7	3	2
ON	30.7	30.2	30.9	31.3	32.8	34.2	34.5	35.5	35.3	35.4	2	6	4
QC	28.5	29.0	29.2	29.5	30.3	31.2	31.9	32.3	33.0	32.9	4	8	6
NB	22.7	23.1	23.1	23.6	24.3	24.6	25.1	25.7	26.2	26.3	8	5	7
NS	21.4	21.4	21.7	22.0	22.9	23.7	24.3	25.2	25.4	25.2	9	9	5
PE	19.8	19.4	19.4	20.1	19.7	19.1	18.6	19.9	19.8	20.3	10	2	10
NF	24.0	24.3	24.3	25.5	25.2	27.2	26.7	32.9	35.2	33.8	3	10	1
Canada	29.1	29.1	29.7	30.3	31.1	32.2	32.7	33.4	33.6	33.7	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI3: Exports of Goods and Services (International & Interprovincial) Per Capita, $1997 Chained

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	12,520	12,336	12,585	12,827	13,854	14,940	14,533	14,673	14,881	15,553	8	4	10
AB	19,844	21,363	22,248	23,080	23,337	24,982	24,657	24,543	24,360	25,467	2	3	9
SK	15,758	16,533	18,889	19,505	19,831	21,255	21,802	21,362	21,582	23,215	3	1	6
MB	13,163	13,874	15,595	16,809	17,184	17,984	18,366	18,396	18,638	19,302	5	6	5
ON	19,521	20,357	21,602	22,906	25,187	26,742	25,483	25,420	24,891	25,968	1	5	8
QC	12,888	13,125	14,177	15,036	16,696	18,415	17,953	17,827	17,604	17,693	6	9	7
NB	14,240	14,575	15,022	15,863	16,820	17,332	19,382	19,970	19,994	20,278	4	8	4
NS	8,575	9,311	10,050	10,368	10,930	11,961	12,526	13,164	13,187	13,510	10	7	2
PE	9,010	9,193	10,146	11,552	12,502	12,983	12,782	12,838	13,066	13,673	9	2	3
NF	7,486	7,490	8,120	9,638	10,637	12,035	11,891	15,867	17,058	16,295	7	10	1
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI4: Taxpayer Supported Debt as a Percent of GDP

	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2004/05 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.8	19.1	20.6	21.3	20.6	18.2	2	3	9
AB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.3	5.7	3.5	3.1	2.2	0.0	1	1	1
SK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.2	23.3	24.2	24.3	23.5	20.3	4	2	2
MB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.6	21.7	20.7	19.9	19.4	19.0	3	9	3
ON	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.9	30.1	29.1	24.8	25.2	24.6	5	8	6
QC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.1	36.5	36.5	35.4	34.2	32.6	7	4	10
NB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.4	33.8	31.9	31.7	30.7	29.4	6	5	4
NS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.7	46.1	46.8	45.2	42.9	41.4	9	6	7
PE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.4	30.7	30.7	31.7	34.1	33.2	8	7	5
NF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	44.8	42.2	44.1	51.3	52.2	51.1	10	10	8
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.9	26.8	26.2	24.5	23.8	22.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; TD Economics; Finance Canada

PI5: Per Capita Tax Burden, Consolidated Provincial and Local Government (dollars)

	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2004/05 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	4,843	4,905	4,862	4,833	4,994	5,182	5,142	4,818	5,201	5,462	6	7	1
AB	4,088	4,223	4,567	4,706	4,672	4,760	4,998	5,197	5,207	5,433	5	5	3
SK	4,600	4,643	5,095	5,131	4,972	6,080	5,319	5,837	5,924	6,256	8	8	7
MB	4,336	4,445	4,574	5,012	4,931	5,277	5,112	5,126	5,380	5,756	7	9	5
ON	5,399	5,535	5,729	5,818	6,133	6,338	6,225	6,177	6,208	6,706	9	10	2
QC	5,485	5,567	5,828	6,309	6,598	6,997	6,847	6,968	7,289	7,570	10	4	6
NB	3,593	3,818	3,605	3,515	3,818	4,024	4,143	4,370	4,601	4,707	2	1	4
NS	3,371	3,546	3,585	3,719	4,036	4,266	4,481	4,737	4,981	5,224	4	6	10
PE	3,289	3,396	3,460	3,527	3,852	3,964	4,119	4,433	4,538	4,700	1	3	9
NF	3,546	3,599	3,352	3,517	3,821	3,969	4,090	4,555	4,820	4,990	3	2	8
Canada	4,995	5,105	5,283	5,464	5,687	5,964	5,898	5,920	6,073	6,435	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI6: Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates (Percent)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	54.20	54.20	54.20	52.30	51.30	45.70	43.70	43.70	43.70	43.70	2	1	1
AB	46.10	46.10	45.60	45.20	43.70	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	1	1	3
SK	52.00	52.00	51.60	50.80	49.70	45.00	44.50	44.00	44.00	44.00	3	1	2
MB	50.40	50.40	50.10	49.00	48.10	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	4	1	7
ON	52.90	51.60	50.30	48.80	47.90	46.41	46.41	46.41	46.41	46.41	5	1	4
QC	52.90	52.90	52.60	52.20	50.70	48.72	48.22	48.22	48.22	48.22	8	1	6
NB	51.40	51.10	50.40	49.70	48.80	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84	6	1	5
NS	50.30	50.00	49.70	49.20	48.80	47.34	47.34	47.34	47.34	48.25	9	10	10
PE	50.30	50.30	50.30	49.60	48.80	47.37	47.37	47.37	47.37	47.37	7	1	8
NF	53.30	53.30	53.30	52.90	51.30	48.64	48.64	48.64	48.64	48.64	10	1	9

Sources: BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG

PI7: Provincial Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP

	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2004/05 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	(0.3)	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.9)	0.1	1.1	(0.9)	(1.9)	(0.9)	1.6	2	2	3
AB	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.0	2.4	4.5	0.7	1.4	2.4	2.8	1	8	4
SK	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	3	4	9
MB	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	4	5	6
ON	(2.7)	(2.0)	(1.1)	(0.5)	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	(1.1)	(0.6)	8	7	2
QC	(2.2)	(1.8)	(1.1)	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	(0.3)	(0.1)	0.0	7	10	1
NB	0.3	0.4	0.0	(1.2)	(0.2)	0.2	0.4	0.0	(0.1)	0.5	5	6	8
NS	(1.0)	(0.6)	(2.2)	(1.2)	(3.5)	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	6	9	5
PE	0.2	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.2	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(1.5)	(3.3)	(1.0)	9	3	10
NF	(1.8)	(1.0)	1.3	(1.7)	(2.2)	(2.5)	(3.3)	(3.9)	(5.0)	(2.4)	10	1	7
Average	(1.5)	(1.0)	(0.4)	(0.3)	0.3	1.0	0.0	(0.2)	(0.3)	0.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; Finance Canada

PI8: Net Interprovincial Migration per 1,000 Population

	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2004/05 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.8	2.6	(2.5)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(0.3)	1.9	1.8	2	6	10
AB	2.8	9.5	15.2	8.7	7.7	6.8	8.6	3.8	3.4	5.2	1	1	2
SK	(2.1)	(2.7)	(1.9)	(4.3)	(7.8)	(8.3)	(8.8)	(5.2)	(4.5)	(4.6)	10	4	7
MB	(3.2)	(5.2)	(4.6)	(1.9)	(3.0)	(3.8)	(3.8)	(2.5)	(2.2)	(3.3)	8	8	5
ON	(0.3)	0.2	0.8	1.5	1.9	1.6	0.5	0.1	(0.6)	(0.7)	5	5	6
QC	(1.7)	(2.4)	(2.3)	(1.8)	(1.7)	(1.3)	(0.6)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	3	7	4
NB	(0.5)	(1.7)	(4.2)	(1.7)	(1.6)	(2.0)	(1.6)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(2.2)	7	9	8
NS	(1.3)	(1.8)	(2.8)	0.2	(0.3)	(2.2)	(1.0)	0.5	(0.8)	(0.5)	4	2	3
PE	4.7	1.0	(3.1)	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.0	(1.6)	6	10	9
NF	(13.1)	(14.5)	(17.2)	(10.5)	(8.0)	(8.5)	(6.4)	(3.2)	(3.9)	(3.6)	9	3	1
Average	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI9: Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	17.7	16.8	18.6	16.9	16.5	16.2	17.4	17.2	18.2	19.4	3	4	10
AB	21.5	21.8	26.6	27.9	26.2	28.8	30.8	29.2	30.6	30.8	1	9	3
SK	17.4	19.1	24.9	20.6	20.8	20.2	19.6	18.4	19.4	18.8	5	10	5
MB	12.9	14.1	16.0	15.4	15.6	14.9	15.3	16.1	16.0	17.1	9	3	4
ON	12.8	13.9	15.7	15.5	15.9	15.5	15.4	14.9	15.3	15.5	10	8	8
QC	12.8	13.6	14.3	14.7	15.2	15.1	14.7	15.1	15.9	17.3	8	2	6
NB	12.3	13.4	12.9	14.8	17.9	18.1	15.0	15.2	17.1	17.4	7	7	2
NS	12.4	13.5	17.6	18.7	22.3	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.5	18.9	4	6	1
PE	17.5	18.0	13.3	13.3	15.5	16.4	16.2	15.7	17.0	18.1	6	5	7
NF	24.7	20.7	24.1	21.9	26.8	22.4	21.7	18.2	20.2	23.1	2	1	9
Canada	14.8	15.5	17.5	17.3	17.4	17.4	17.6	17.2	17.9	18.5	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI9 (SI): Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (excluding residential structures) as a Percent of GDP

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	10.1	9.3	11.0	10.4	10.6	10.6	11.3	10.3	10.7	11.1	7	4	9
AB	18.0	17.8	21.9	23.1	21.6	24.3	26.0	23.7	25.3	25.6	1	6	4
SK	14.9	16.2	21.9	17.6	17.9	17.3	16.6	15.2	15.9	15.2	3	10	6
MB	9.2	10.1	12.5	12.0	12.4	11.8	11.9	12.4	12.0	12.8	4	3	3
ON	8.8	9.6	10.9	11.0	11.2	10.8	10.3	9.5	9.8	9.9	10	7	7
QC	8.7	8.9	10.0	10.6	11.2	11.2	10.2	9.8	10.1	10.9	8	2	5
NB	8.9	9.5	8.8	11.0	14.1	13.6	10.1	9.8	11.4	11.3	6	9	2
NS	7.5	8.4	12.6	14.5	17.6	13.6	13.5	13.4	12.7	12.7	5	8	1
PE	12.8	13.2	8.2	8.8	10.6	10.4	10.2	9.8	10.6	10.9	9	5	8
NF	20.9	16.5	19.4	17.4	22.4	17.9	16.7	13.2	15.0	17.3	2	1	10
Canada	10.4	10.7	12.6	12.8	12.9	12.9	12.7	11.8	12.2	12.6	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI10: Secondary School Graduates (per 1,000 population aged 18 years)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	638	662	676	675	719	725	749	738	743	762	6	2	1
AB	629	652	645	641	634	630	660	656	660	666	10	6	7
SK	751	735	712	751	742	756	791	769	764	771	5	5	6
MB	748	763	754	765	758	726	760	773	691	714	9	1	10
ON	754	754	740	756	752	757	758	745	746*	748*	8*	7*	8*
QC	687	876	912	853	800	807	820	834	808	779	4	10	2
NB	847	829	845	850	827	836	861	824	831	811	2	9	9
NS	734	750	742	799	809	805	793	807	789	808	3	3	3
PE	811	806	808	788	884	823	846	855	843	836	1	8	4
NF	778	758	802	789	818	802	828	740	750	759	7	4	5
Average	713	764	768	762	752	754	766	759	751*	750*	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada Note: *estimates

PI11: Percent of Population (ages 25 to 54) with University Completion

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	17.9	19.0	18.6	19.6	20.1	21.0	20.3	21.6	23.2	22.6	2	9	7
AB	17.8	17.8	18.5	18.2	18.6	18.7	20.7	20.7	20.8	20.4	5	6	10
SK	13.6	14.7	14.8	15.4	16.1	16.4	16.1	17.3	17.4	17.9	7	2	4
MB	16.0	16.6	17.1	17.7	18.1	18.9	19.7	19.4	19.9	20.1	6	4	6
ON	20.5	20.4	21.3	21.5	22.5	24.0	24.5	25.3	26.2	26.7	1	3	5
QC	17.1	17.0	18.0	18.6	19.2	19.8	20.8	20.6	21.6	21.9	3	5	1
NB	13.1	13.6	13.7	14.6	15.3	14.9	15.5	15.9	16.0	16.6	9	1	2
NS	15.9	16.3	16.3	17.9	18.0	18.7	19.8	20.3	21.9	21.3	4	10	8
PE	15.2	14.0	15.0	14.8	15.6	14.2	16.5	16.2	18.0	17.6	8	8	3
NF	11.9	10.0	11.7	11.9	11.8	12.2	13.0	13.5	13.6	13.3	10	7	9
Average	18.2	18.3	18.9	19.4	20.1	21.0	21.7	22.2	23.1	23.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI12: Gross Expenditures on R&D as a Percent of GDP													
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	0.97	1.06	1.01	0.92	0.91	0.96	1.07	1.23	1.31	1.34	4	4	3
AB	1.03	1.10	1.06	1.02	0.98	1.10	0.99	0.93	1.06	1.09	7	2	8
SK	1.02	0.98	0.96	0.81	0.98	0.94	1.05	1.11	1.19	1.22	5	3	5
MB	1.20	1.20	1.09	1.04	0.90	0.97	1.20	1.21	1.34	1.21	6	7	6
ON	2.08	2.15	2.10	2.05	2.09	2.18	2.17	2.36	2.53	2.25	2	9	4
QC	2.04	2.08	2.10	2.12	2.10	2.22	2.33	2.52	2.73	2.69	1	5	2
NB	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.90	0.77	0.89	0.87	0.81	0.77	0.87	9	1	9
NS	1.34	1.42	1.37	1.32	1.26	1.45	1.48	1.47	1.41	1.38	3	6	7
PE	0.69	0.67	0.60	0.60	0.61	0.77	0.82	1.07	1.08	0.83	10	10	1
NF	1.14	1.05	0.94	0.99	0.98	1.06	1.04	0.99	1.00	0.90	8	8	10
Average	1.68	1.73	1.70	1.65	1.66	1.76	1.80	1.91	2.05	1.94	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI13: Natural and Applied Sciences & Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment													
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.3	5.8	5	9	10
AB	5.8	5.9	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.7	7.0	7.7	6.9	7.2	1	5	7
SK	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	10	4	3
MB	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.3	7	2	4
ON	6.0	5.7	6.2	6.5	7.1	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.2	6.9	3	7	6
QC	5.5	5.3	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.6	7.0	2	1	5
NB	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.9	4	3	2
NS	4.7	4.8	4.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.6	6	8	8
PE	3.5	4.4	3.9	4.7	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.8	9	6	1
NF	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.2	8	10	9
Average	5.5	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Environment, Health & Society

CT4: Environmental Quality, Rank by Province

	Air Quality	GHG Per Capita	Protected Areas	Environmental Quality
	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	3	3	1	1
AB	6	10	2	6
SK	5	9	7	9
MB	2	5	4	2
ON	7	4	3	4
QC	8	1	7	5
NB	4	8	9	9
NS	n/a	7	5	6
PE	n/a	2	10	6
NF	1	6	6	3

CT5: Health Outcomes, Component Ranks by Province

	Life Expectancy	Cancer Mortality	Cardio-vascular Mortality	Infant Mortality	PYLL	Health Outcomes
Year	2002/03	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
BC	1	1	2	5	1	1
AB	3	2	8	10	6	5
SK	5	4	4	8	9	7
MB	9	6	6	9	10	10
ON	2	3	3	7	2	2
QC	4	8	1	6	3	3
NB	6	7	7	2	5	4
NS	7	10	5	3	4	5
PE	8	5	10	1	8	8
NF	10	9	9	4	7	9

Source: BC Progress Board

CT6: Social Condition, Component Ranks by Province, 2003

	LICO	Low Birth Weight Rate	Personal and Property Crime	Income Assistance	Long-Term Unemployment	Social Condition Index
Year	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	10	3	9	5	10	9
AB	7	10	7	9	2	8
SK	2	5	10	6	6	6
MB	6	4	8	1	3	3
ON	4	9	2	3	7	4
QC	9	8	4	8	9	10
NB	3	2	3	7	4	2
NS	5	7	6	4	5	5
PE	1	1	5	2	1	1
NF	8	6	1	10	8	7

Source: BC Progress Board

PI14: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM$_{10}$ Concentrations (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver				15	15	14	14	14	13	14
Edmonton	24	24	24	26	21	20	24	31	28	25
Regina	20	21	17	19	17	18	22	24	20	20
Winnipeg				24	24	22	22	22	21	19
Toronto							19	20	20	18
Montreal							25	26	23	22
Saint John			14			15	18	20	29	19
Charlottetown							9		14	12

PI14: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM$_{2.5}$ Concentrations (micrograms per cubic metre)

	2001	2002	2003	2003 rank
Vancouver	5.3	5.8	5.5	3
Calgary	6.3	6.2	7.8	6
Regina	8.2	7.6	7.3	5
Winnipeg	5.5	6.2	5.3	2
Toronto	n/a	n/a	8.8	7
Montreal	9.7	9.8	10.7	8
Saint John	8.3	6.4	6.2	4
Sydney	5.0	5.4	n/a	n/a
St John's	4.9	4.8	4.9	1

Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada

PI15: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Tonnes per capita)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	15.0	15.8	15.8	15.2	15.2	15.6	15.9	15.5	15.1	15.3	3	4	2
AB	71.1	72.0	72.4	71.7	70.4	72.1	73.5	71.6	70.0	70.9	10	5	1
SK	56.5	58.6	60.4	61.8	62.4	62.6	63.7	62.5	62.8	65.6	9	8	8
MB	17.5	18.1	18.8	18.0	18.5	18.2	18.7	17.4	17.9	18.3	5	6	6
ON	16.2	16.3	16.8	17.0	16.8	16.9	17.5	16.5	16.7	16.8	4	3	3
QC	11.5	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.5	12.2	1	9	7
NB	21.7	22.4	22.1	25.1	26.2	25.2	26.8	29.9	28.5	28.0	8	2	9
NS	20.4	20.3	20.3	20.9	21.0	21.5	22.7	21.9	21.2	22.6	7	10	5
PE	14.0	13.6	14.4	14.6	14.4	14.4	15.4	14.6	14.7	15.2	2	7	4
NF	12.6	14.3	14.7	15.9	18.9	16.6	16.3	18.1	21.8	21.0	6	1	10
Canada	21.7	22.0	22.4	22.6	22.6	22.9	23.5	23.0	22.9	23.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Environment Canada

PI16: Protected Areas (Percent of Land Base)

	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2003 Rank
BC	11.4	13.0	12.5	13.0	1
AB	10.0	12.5	12.4	12.3	2
SK	6.0	6.4	8.8	3.5	7
MB	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.5	4
ON	8.7	8.9	9.0	9.2	3
QC	4.3	n/a	4.8	3.5	7
NB	3.2	3.2	n/a	3.1	9
NS	8.3	n/a	n/a	8.2	5
PE	4.2	4.2	n/a	2.6	10
NF	4.3	n/a	n/a	4.3	6
Canada	6.9	n/a	n/a	8.4	n/a

Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; WWF Canada

Note: *Compiled using a different methodology from previous years

PI17: Life Expectancy at Birth, Both Sexes, Years

	1994 /95	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2003/04 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	78.5	78.6	78.8	79.1	79.4	79.9	80.2	80.3	80.5	80.7	1	1	1
AB	78.1	78.5	78.5	78.6	78.9	79.2	79.3	79.5	79.5	79.4	4	8	6
SK	78.3	78.2	78.1	78.2	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.8	78.8	78.7	6	10	10
MB	77.5	77.5	77.7	77.9	77.8	77.8	78.0	78.2	78.2	78.2	8	5	9
ON	78.0	78.3	78.5	78.7	79.0	79.2	79.4	79.7	79.7	79.6	2	6	3
QC	77.5	77.7	77.8	77.9	78.2	78.6	79.0	79.1	79.4	79.5	3	2	2
NB	77.5	77.7	77.7	77.7	77.9	78.2	78.7	78.9	78.7	78.8	5	4	4
NS	77.3	77.3	77.5	77.5	78.0	78.4	78.6	78.7	78.6	78.5	7	7	5
PE	77.3	77.3	77.5	77.8	78.2	78.3	78.1	78.2	78.3	78.2	9	9	8
NF	76.6	77.0	77.0	76.8	77.2	77.4	77.4	77.5	77.6	77.7	10	3	7
Canada	77.9	78.1	78.2	78.4	78.7	78.9	79.2	79.4	79.5	79.5	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI18: Age Standardized Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population - All Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	174	173	168	169	168	165	163	158	158	159	1	6	6
AB	177	170	174	177	168	166	169	170	164	165	2	7	7
SK	170	176	172	173	167	175	173	172	170	176	4	9	10
MB	190	186	192	187	183	191	185	188	180	178	6	3	8
ON	187	189	186	184	174	177	178	177	176	174	3	4	5
QC	212	209	206	210	204	205	201	196	197	195	8	5	1
NB	198	197	202	195	193	200	184	188	186	181	7	1	3
NS	215	214	207	212	209	208	206	204	196	199	10	8	4
PE	182	209	200	209	172	191	196	193	159	177	5	10	2
NF	197	199	192	192	195	195	202	201	201	198	9	2	9
Canada	191	191	188	188	182	184	182	180	179	178	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI19: Age Standardized Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population - Diseases of the Circulatory System

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	240	231	226	227	214	212	206	190	184	181	2	8	4
AB	257	258	247	251	247	235	233	223	216	214	8	9	9
SK	249	245	242	238	231	233	230	221	206	202	4	7	8
MB	275	265	274	258	248	248	238	232	213	205	6	3	6
ON	268	261	254	251	236	234	227	216	201	196	3	4	2
QC	273	258	257	244	249	232	220	194	184	177	1	1	1
NB	278	281	267	255	252	253	243	223	213	207	7	5	5
NS	277	283	269	253	261	245	226	225	212	204	5	2	3
PE	300	266	283	303	215	264	242	271	252	262	10	10	10
NF	325	324	313	309	337	311	293	288	264	258	9	6	7
Canada	266	258	253	247	240	233	225	210	198	193	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI20: Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.1	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.6	5	9	3
AB	6.7	7.4	7.0	6.2	4.8	4.8	5.8	6.6	5.6	7.3	10	10	9
SK	8.1	8.9	9.1	8.4	8.9	7.1	6.3	6.8	5.5	5.7	8	8	5
MB	7.1	7.0	7.6	6.7	7.5	6.7	8.4	6.5	7.0	7.1	9	6	8
ON	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.3	7	5	6
QC	5.7	5.6	5.5	4.6	5.6	5.6	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8	6	7	7
NB	7.2	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.7	6.5	5.0	3.5	4.3	3.8	2	3	2
NS	7.1	6.0	4.8	5.6	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.9	5.6	4.2	3	2	4
PE	9.1	6.4	4.6	4.7	4.4	8.0	6.6	3.5	7.2	1.5	1	1	10
NF	7.8	8.2	7.9	6.6	5.2	6.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.5	4	4	1
Canada	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI21: Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) Rates

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	64	63	61	59	56	54	51	48	48	48	1	5	1
AB	63	63	61	59	57	56	56	55	55	55	6	7	6
SK	65	65	67	65	64	64	62	61	60	60	9	4	8
MB	66	67	66	64	64	63	65	64	63	63	10	3	10
ON	59	59	57	54	52	50	50	49	48	49	2	8	2
QC	64	64	63	61	59	58	56	54	53	52	3	2	3
NB	66	62	60	60	60	59	57	54	53	54	5	10	5
NS	62	62	62	61	59	57	55	54	52	53	4	9	4
PE	63	66	62	59	59	59	58	59	60	59	8	1	7
NF	64	64	62	61	60	56	56	58	58	59	7	6	9
Canada	63	62	61	59	57	55	54	52	51	52	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI22: Prevalence (%) of Families & Unattached Individuals below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	19.3	18.3	21.5	22.2	20.2	20.8	19.7	19.1	20.0	18.7	10	1	9
AB	18.3	17.6	19.2	19.6	18.0	16.3	15.0	13.5	13.5	15.6	7	10	5
SK	15.7	15.5	16.4	15.5	15.6	14.0	14.5	13.4	12.4	12.3	2	6	1
MB	20.0	19.3	19.9	20.0	18.1	18.3	17.2	14.8	15.2	15.3	6	7	3
ON	15.0	16.5	18.0	17.0	15.3	15.1	14.5	13.1	14.1	13.8	4	3	6
QC	22.9	22.9	24.4	24.8	22.2	20.5	20.1	18.7	17.1	16.9	9	4	2
NB	16.3	14.9	15.6	17.0	15.2	13.5	13.0	12.8	13.2	12.4	3	2	4
NS	17.0	17.7	17.9	17.8	18.4	16.2	15.8	14.1	13.6	14.1	5	9	8
PE	9.6	11.9	13.0	14.7	12.8	14.7	13.4	11.1	11.2	11.1	1	5	10
NF	17.3	19.6	18.0	16.8	17.0	17.8	16.1	14.4	15.6	16.0	8	8	7
Canada	18.2	18.6	20.2	20.0	18.2	17.5	16.8	15.5	15.5	15.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI23: Low Birth Weight - Percent of Live Births with Weight Less than 2,500 Grams (excluding not stated)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	3	5	7
AB	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	10	3	9
SK	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.6	5	9	8
MB	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	4	8	4
ON	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	9	6	3
QC	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	8	7	6
NB	5.9	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	2	2	1
NS	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	7	4	2
PE	6.1	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.0	5.3	4.2	1	1	10
NF	6.2	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.6	6	10	5
Canada	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI24: Personal and Property Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	9,982	10,106	9,179	8,583	8,088	7,685	7,714	7,755	8,172	7,947	9	4	3
AB	6,216	6,118	6,134	6,065	5,865	5,506	5,515	5,752	6,229	6,146	7	7	6
SK	7,428	7,649	7,800	7,733	7,438	7,657	7,799	7,648	8,677	8,253	10	3	10
MB	7,550	7,464	7,192	6,776	6,662	6,617	6,750	6,602	7,222	7,301	8	8	4
ON	5,976	5,724	5,177	4,772	4,429	4,263	4,142	4,063	3,982	3,764	2	1	1
QC	5,077	5,254	4,988	4,747	4,402	4,377	4,217	4,056	4,029	3,925	3	5	2
NB	4,232	4,271	3,932	3,969	3,963	3,894	3,837	3,829	4,025	3,937	4	6	5
NS	5,169	5,203	5,186	5,056	5,052	4,603	4,502	4,496	4,859	5,081	6	10	7
PE	4,433	4,387	3,933	3,491	3,846	3,790	3,775	4,189	4,530	4,304	5	2	9
NF	3,540	3,743	3,584	3,586	3,378	3,381	3,258	3,409	3,557	3,653	1	9	8
Canada	6,301	6,276	5,872	5,552	5,235	5,068	4,988	4,943	5,087	4,933	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI25: Income Assistance Recipients Per 1,000 Population (Aged 0-64)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	7.6	5.7	7.6	6.9	6.8	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.1	5	1	5
AB	7.4	5.7	7.4	7.0	7.4	5.8	5.8	5.3	5.1	5.2	9	8	3
SK	11.2	5.1	6.9	6.7	7.0	5.0	4.2	4.7	4.4	4.3	6	5	2
MB	5.1	4.9	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.4	1	6	1
ON	8.2	6.0	7.8	7.7	6.7	4.4	3.8	4.1	3.6	4.0	3	10	6
QC	6.9	6.9	7.8	8.1	7.4	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1	8	3	4
NB	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2	11.1	5.1	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.4	7	2	10
NS	5.0	5.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.0	4.1	4	9	8
PE	3.7	3.0	4.4	3.7	3.7	4.4	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.6	2	7	9
NF	8.4	13.2	10.0	10.3	7.2	7.5	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	10	4	7
Canada	7.5	6.1	7.5	7.4	6.9	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI26: Long-Term Unemployment Rate (Ages 15+)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	10.6	12.1	14.4	10.8	12.4	10.2	9.9	10.9	12.5	8.9	8	1	9
AB	9.7	8.5	8.5	4.3	4.4	5.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	4.4	2	7	5
SK	10.9	12.6	10.1	7.9	7.9	7.4	6.4	8.5	6.3	7.4	5	6	8
MB	13.8	13.2	11.4	8.2	6.7	5.9	4.8	4.3	5.0	7.1	4	9	4
ON	18.6	17.2	15.6	12.6	10.5	9.0	7.2	7.9	8.8	9.0	9	4	2
QC	19.0	20.0	19.3	18.7	14.9	15.9	12.9	13.0	12.2	11.3	10	3	3
NB	10.8	11.0	10.0	10.5	7.6	6.5	7.3	6.9	5.9	6.9	3	5	6
NS	11.8	14.9	14.1	13.4	8.8	9.7	8.7	6.7	6.2	8.0	6	8	7
PE	7.0	6.9	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.5	2.3	2.3	1.2	3.5	1	10	10
NF	24.5	22.2	21.3	15.8	13.0	12.1	11.8	10.2	10.8	8.8	7	2	1
Canada	16.3	16.4	15.7	13.4	11.3	10.8	9.0	9.2	9.6	9.1	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Supplemental Information: US Comparisons

CT1: Real GDP Per Capita ($1997 Canadian)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
QC	25,041	25,192	25,902	26,647	28,193	29,281	29,556	30,161	30,591	31,062	7
ON	31,058	31,023	32,004	33,141	35,201	36,722	36,710	37,236	37,330	37,883	5
AB	35,936	36,129	37,825	38,861	38,678	40,318	40,321	40,537	41,225	42,386	3
BC	28,645	28,614	28,968	29,094	29,816	30,983	30,875	31,667	32,227	33,129	6
CA*	34,997	35,805	37,831	39,650	42,212	44,721	43,955	44,577	45,474	47,208	1
OR*	31,128	34,422	35,250	36,745	37,604	40,127	38,914	39,069	39,703	41,166	4
WA*	32,055	33,140	37,896	40,226	42,844	42,717	41,904	42,022	42,740	43,824	2

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1998 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT1: Growth in Real GDP Per Capita (Percent)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	Period Progress Rank
QC	1.3	0.6	2.8	2.9	5.8	3.9	0.9	2.0	1.4	1.5	6	3
ON	2.3	(0.1)	3.2	3.6	6.2	4.3	(0.0)	1.4	0.3	1.5	7	4
AB	1.9	0.5	4.7	2.7	(0.5)	4.2	0.0	0.5	1.7	2.8	3	6
BC	(0.4)	(0.1)	1.2	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.6	1.8	2.8	4	7
CA	2.7	2.3	n/a	4.8	6.5	5.9	(1.7)	1.4	2.0	3.8	1	2
OR	4.0	10.6	n/a	4.2	2.3	6.7	(3.0)	0.4	1.6	3.7	2	1
WA	(1.2)	3.4	n/a	6.1	6.5	(0.3)	(1.9)	0.3	1.7	2.5	5	5

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

CT2 (SI): Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	16,834	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,775	19,063	19,366	7	5	3
ON	19,723	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,502	21,751	21,883	5	7	6
AB	19,045	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,596	22,742	23,652	4	2	1
BC	18,829	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,832	19,909	20,182	6	6	7
CA	26,723	27,116	27,486	28,681	28,816	29,581	29,299	29,810	29,953	30,670	2	3	4
OR	25,034	25,227	25,307	25,979	25,960	26,559	26,570	26,944	27,008	27,507	3	4	5
WA	27,313	27,708	28,004	28,850	29,151	29,954	29,829	30,494	30,846	32,526	1	1	2

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	54.8	54.3	54.8	55.9	56.8	57.8	57.9	59.5	59.9	60.3	7	3	1
ON	59.7	59.6	60.1	61.2	62.3	63.1	63.0	62.9	63.7	63.8	2	5	2
AB	66.5	67.2	67.7	68.4	68.4	68.6	69.0	69.1	69.8	70.2	1	4	3
BC	60.7	59.9	59.8	59.0	59.7	60.1	59.0	59.4	60.3	60.8	6	2	6
CA	60.4	61.0	62.0	62.6	63.0	63.8	63.4	62.1	61.4	61.5	4	6	4
OR	64.7	64.7	65.0	65.0	64.9	65.1	63.8	62.4	61.5	61.4	5	7	7
WA	64.0	64.7	66.0	66.4	66.2	64.9	62.9	62.3	62.3	63.5	3	1	5

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PI6 (SI): Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates (Percent)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	52.9	52.9	52.6	52.2	50.7	48.7	48.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	7	1	7
ON	52.9	51.6	50.3	48.8	47.9	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4	6	1	3
AB	46.1	46.1	45.6	45.2	43.7	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	2	1	2
BC	54.2	54.2	54.2	52.3	51.3	45.7	43.7	43.7	43.7	43.7	3	1	1
CA	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.4	47.9	44.3	44.3	44.3	5	1	4
OR	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.1	47.6	44.0	44.0	44.0	4	1	6
WA	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.1	38.6	35.0	35.0	35.0	1	1	5

Sources: BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG; US Internal Revenue Service

PI8 (SI): Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	5	5	3
ON	(0.0)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	6	3	4
AB	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.5	1	1	2
BC	0.6	0.3	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.0)	0.2	0.2	3	4	6
CA	(1.2)	(0.8)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.4)	7	6	1
OR	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	4	7	7
WA	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	2	2	5

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1993	1994 (int.)	1995	1996 (int.)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	2.04	2.08	2.10	2.12	2.10	2.22	2.33	2.52	2.73	2.69	3	3	2
ON	2.08	2.15	2.10	2.05	2.09	2.18	2.17	2.36	2.53	2.25	5	6	5
AB	1.03	1.10	1.06	1.02	0.98	1.10	0.99	0.93	1.06	1.09	7	1	6
BC	0.97	1.06	1.01	0.92	0.91	0.96	1.07	1.23	1.31	1.34	6	2	3
CA	4.05	4.00	3.96	4.03	4.09	4.04	4.05	4.27	3.90	3.77	2	5	7
OR	1.12	1.24	1.36	1.47	1.57	1.89	1.89	1.87	2.84	2.51	4	7	1
WA	3.91	3.68	3.46	3.85	4.23	4.34	3.89	4.75	4.60	4.49	1	4	4

Sources: Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation Note: int.=interpolated

PI14 (SI): Air Quality - Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentration (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2000 rank
Toronto	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.0	20.0	20.0	18.0	n/a	2
Vancouver	n/a	14.8	15.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.3	13.8	12.8	1
Montreal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.0	26.0	23.0	22.0	n/a	3
Edmonton	24.0	26.0	21.0	20.0	24.0	31.0	28.0	25.0	n/a	5
Los Angeles	47.0	47.0	50.0	46.8	46.1	40.5	56.3	46.3	45.3	7
Portland	34.0	32.0	29.0	27.2	30.2	28.9	26.8	23.0	20.0	4
Seattle	35.0	28.0	29.0	26.3	30.6	24.5	24.8	27.0	24.0	6

PI14 (SI): Air Quality - Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentration (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.3	5.8	5.5	1
Calgary	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.3	6.2	7.8	2
Toronto	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.8	4
Montreal	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.7	9.8	10.7	5
Los Angeles	0.0	25.7	24.0	25.2	25.1	22.1	7
Portland	n/a	9.9	9.8	8.8	8.5	8.2	3
Seattle	n/a	11.5	15.7	17.6	11.3	10.7	6

Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada; US Environmental Protection Agency

PI23 (SI): Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	2	5	2
ON	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	3	3	1
AB	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	6	1	5
BC	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	1	2	3
CA	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	7	4	4
OR	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.1	4	7	7
WA	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	4	6	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

PI24 (SI): Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	4,339	4,512	4,279	4,035	3,662	3,603	3,445	3,261	3,253	3,139	2	2	3
ON	4,761	4,545	4,065	3,690	3,412	3,223	3,142	3,078	3,051	2,830	1	1	1
AB	4,762	4,713	4,716	4,578	4,429	4,142	4,145	4,347	4,786	4,709	4	5	7
BC	8,350	8,494	7,600	7,053	6,649	6,285	6,327	6,350	6,714	6,501	7	3	5
CA	5,811	5,185	4,833	4,301	3,765	3,725	3,899	3,958	4,006	3,971	3	6	2
OR	6,475	5,917	6,153	5,528	4,887	4,832	5,042	4,866	5,071	4,930	5	4	4
WA	6,213	5,870	5,859	5,786	5,178	5,091	5,148	5,108	5,102	5,193	6	7	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Supplemental Information: North American Comparisons

CT2 (SI): Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
British Columbia	18,829	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,832	19,909	20,182	54
Alberta	19,045	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,596	22,742	23,652	51
Saskatchewan	16,118	16,735	15,745	16,260	16,793	17,155	17,201	17,275	17,944	18,761	57
Manitoba	17,368	17,556	17,194	17,833	17,959	18,346	18,615	18,608	18,734	18,962	56
Ontario	19,723	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,502	21,751	21,883	53
Quebec	16,834	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,775	19,063	19,366	55
New Brunswick	16,106	15,990	15,991	16,610	17,159	17,423	17,739	17,718	17,922	18,045	59
Nova Scotia	16,513	16,210	16,480	17,064	17,562	17,772	18,101	18,257	18,289	18,433	58
Prince Edward Island	15,816	15,465	15,561	15,867	16,412	16,935	16,917	17,382	17,219	17,549	61
Newfoundland & Labrador	14,746	14,514	14,426	14,922	15,383	15,839	16,538	16,854	17,325	17,652	60
Alabama	22,026	22,008	22,343	23,153	23,344	23,655	24,033	24,902	25,422	26,041	41
Alaska	28,983	28,375	28,657	28,973	28,963	29,701	30,762	31,642	31,796	32,227	12
Arizona	22,500	22,581	23,101	24,044	24,357	25,093	25,077	25,741	25,902	26,403	39
Arkansas	20,536	20,871	21,011	21,546	21,781	21,777	22,337	22,778	23,344	24,030	50
California	27,003	27,151	27,486	28,804	29,144	30,028	30,060	30,837	30,995	31,725	15
Colorado	26,892	27,353	27,817	29,168	30,144	31,735	32,331	32,365	32,337	32,999	9
Connecticut	33,550	33,435	34,165	35,702	36,185	37,520	37,823	38,318	38,352	39,507	2
Delaware	26,802	27,226	27,044	28,417	28,483	29,535	29,790	31,178	31,873	32,684	10
District of Columbia	34,600	34,878	35,429	36,343	35,683	37,549	41,162	43,100	44,409	46,324	1
Florida	25,807	25,857	25,942	26,987	27,311	27,885	27,990	28,462	28,624	29,216	26
Georgia	24,184	24,707	24,877	25,876	26,366	27,035	27,066	27,286	27,227	27,552	36
Hawaii	28,181	27,244	27,211	27,270	27,476	27,921	27,456	28,264	28,711	29,516	22
Idaho	21,851	22,077	21,915	22,788	23,220	23,556	23,942	24,876	24,781	25,299	45
Illinois	27,837	28,278	28,758	29,807	29,930	30,809	30,453	30,739	30,811	31,368	16
Indiana	23,821	24,088	24,415	25,814	25,798	26,578	26,141	26,780	27,270	27,792	35
Iowa	23,570	24,624	25,075	25,796	25,647	26,289	26,147	26,962	26,997	28,477	31
Kansas	24,123	24,715	25,231	26,326	26,458	27,028	27,383	27,662	27,671	28,482	29
Kentucky	21,114	21,517	21,969	22,819	23,041	23,990	23,786	24,684	25,062	25,542	43
Louisiana	21,879	21,821	22,155	23,017	22,828	23,124	24,077	24,966	25,316	25,877	42
Maine	22,815	23,191	23,525	24,431	24,795	25,277	25,913	26,988	27,559	28,188	34
Maryland	28,798	28,861	29,050	30,409	31,150	32,369	32,854	33,980	34,378	35,125	5
Massachusetts	29,790	30,147	30,750	31,959	32,674	34,067	34,755	35,847	35,946	37,058	4
Michigan	26,017	25,954	26,357	27,401	27,996	28,588	28,408	28,675	29,417	29,425	23
Minnesota	26,434	27,120	27,728	29,268	29,953	30,556	30,409	31,085	31,514	32,481	11
Mississippi	19,448	19,741	20,178	20,890	20,955	21,282	21,675	22,178	22,793	23,384	52
Missouri	24,146	24,395	24,963	25,746	25,958	26,611	26,426	27,514	27,873	28,293	33
Montana	20,830	20,949	21,295	22,249	22,174	22,741	23,919	23,748	24,181	24,932	46
Nebraska	24,498	25,755	25,482	26,588	26,923	27,075	27,456	27,532	28,662	29,012	27
Nevada	27,864	28,128	28,375	29,181	29,449	29,584	29,270	29,628	30,259	30,919	17
New Hampshire	28,058	28,906	28,664	30,163	30,528	32,107	31,916	33,118	33,278	34,275	6
New Jersey	31,949	32,440	33,055	34,331	34,387	35,977	35,864	36,169	36,335	37,113	3
New Mexico	21,038	21,012	21,138	21,826	21,703	22,004	23,492	23,517	23,911	24,517	48
New York	29,549	29,867	30,443	31,419	31,710	32,460	31,877	32,251	32,618	33,547	7
North Carolina	23,768	24,113	24,730	25,410	25,716	26,296	26,050	26,323	26,382	26,877	38
North Dakota	21,599	23,541	22,382	24,483	24,237	25,396	25,354	26,246	28,029	29,755	21
Ohio	24,986	24,939	25,695	26,604	26,910	27,271	26,965	27,661	28,216	28,669	28
Oklahoma	21,369	21,616	21,963	22,751	23,103	24,184	25,136	25,080	25,446	26,123	40
Oregon	24,628	24,956	25,307	26,064	26,321	26,868	26,781	26,941	26,762	27,233	37
Pennsylvania	25,962	26,223	26,845	27,667	27,998	28,743	28,556	29,505	29,949	30,521	19
Rhode Island	26,091	26,167	26,626	27,441	27,599	28,164	28,853	29,374	29,901	30,734	18
South Carolina	21,565	21,864	22,276	23,082	23,510	24,165	24,111	24,660	24,957	25,320	44
South Dakota	22,576	24,252	23,935	25,233	25,580	26,034	26,583	26,492	28,135	29,416	24
Tennessee	24,297	24,212	24,468	25,472	25,898	26,310	26,393	27,265	27,839	28,477	30
Texas	24,038	24,427	25,313	26,458	27,011	28,059	28,107	27,958	27,956	28,403	32
Utah	20,586	21,075	21,679	22,486	22,640	23,380	23,775	24,169	24,172	24,715	47
Vermont	23,744	23,953	24,310	25,546	26,228	26,986	27,559	28,609	29,286	30,368	20
Virginia	26,679	26,843	27,429	28,096	28,652	29,464	30,134	30,969	31,211	32,046	13
Washington	26,876	27,388	28,004	29,227	29,772	30,694	30,798	31,595	31,743	33,010	8
West Virginia	20,223	20,403	20,741	21,453	21,503	21,956	22,699	23,208	23,554	24,258	49
Wisconsin	24,523	24,783	25,364	26,575	26,994	27,534	27,667	28,374	28,672	29,349	25
Wyoming	23,937	23,633	24,615	25,662	26,771	27,533	28,794	29,800	30,708	31,733	14

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
British Columbia	60.7	59.9	59.8	59.0	59.7	60.1	59.0	59.4	60.3	60.8	45
Alberta	66.5	67.2	67.7	68.4	68.4	68.6	69.0	69.1	69.8	70.2	4
Saskatchewan	61.6	61.0	62.1	62.6	62.8	63.4	61.9	63.1	64.0	64.4	20
Manitoba	61.6	61.4	62.1	63.0	63.5	64.5	64.4	65.5	65.3	65.4	17
Ontario	59.7	59.6	60.1	61.2	62.3	63.1	63.0	62.9	63.7	63.8	24
Quebec	54.8	54.3	54.8	55.9	56.8	57.8	57.9	59.5	59.9	60.3	46
New Brunswick	52.3	51.7	52.2	53.2	54.7	55.4	55.1	56.9	56.8	57.7	57
Nova Scotia	52.0	51.8	52.3	53.9	54.9	55.6	55.9	56.5	57.3	58.3	55
Prince Edward Island	55.3	56.2	55.7	56.3	56.6	58.7	59.1	59.4	60.2	60.1	48
Newfoundland & Labrador	43.6	42.3	42.9	44.4	46.6	46.1	47.8	48.6	49.5	50.1	61
Alabama	60.1	60.7	61.5	61.6	61.6	61.3	59.7	58.4	58.2	58.2	56
Alaska	67.8	67.8	68.4	68.8	68.6	68.4	68.1	67.3	66.8	66.2	14
Arizona	62.6	61.9	61.3	61.9	62.5	62.6	62.5	61.9	61.7	61.8	39
Arkansas	61.2	60.8	60.0	59.5	59.8	59.4	58.5	58.7	58.0	58.6	53
California	60.4	61.0	62.0	62.6	63.0	63.8	63.4	62.1	61.4	61.5	40
Colorado	70.6	70.2	70.8	71.5	71.1	70.5	69.1	67.8	67.9	68.7	6
Connecticut	65.0	64.9	65.2	65.5	65.6	65.4	64.8	64.4	63.7	63.3	27
Delaware	65.9	65.8	66.0	65.9	65.7	67.4	66.4	65.3	64.1	63.1	31
District of Columbia	59.9	58.7	58.3	59.7	63.0	63.9	62.6	61.2	61.7	62.0	38
Florida	58.7	59.0	59.6	60.0	60.3	60.5	60.2	58.8	58.8	59.1	51
Georgia	64.5	65.1	65.5	66.0	66.1	67.1	66.2	64.9	64.4	64.1	21
Hawaii	64.2	64.0	63.8	63.6	64.0	64.7	64.3	63.0	63.2	63.0	32
Idaho	66.2	66.1	66.5	67.0	66.5	66.3	66.2	65.2	64.5	64.5	19
Illinois	64.8	64.9	65.4	65.5	66.1	66.1	64.9	62.7	62.0	62.2	37
Indiana	67.2	66.6	66.8	66.8	66.7	66.4	65.3	64.3	64.0	63.6	25
Iowa	70.2	70.8	70.6	70.3	70.2	69.8	69.5	69.3	67.7	67.0	12
Kansas	67.5	67.6	68.0	68.3	68.3	67.7	66.8	66.4	66.5	66.9	13
Kentucky	59.4	59.5	60.2	60.4	60.6	60.6	59.7	58.7	58.7	58.6	54
Louisiana	57.0	57.6	58.3	58.8	58.7	58.5	58.1	57.3	57.2	57.5	59
Maine	62.9	64.1	64.4	64.3	65.2	65.3	64.2	63.9	63.3	63.2	29
Maryland	67.3	67.8	68.0	67.9	68.0	67.6	67.0	66.3	65.9	65.4	16
Massachusetts	63.8	64.5	65.5	66.1	66.3	66.4	65.6	64.7	64.0	63.9	23
Michigan	62.8	63.1	64.2	64.7	65.5	66.0	64.1	61.8	61.0	60.9	44
Minnesota	72.5	72.5	72.7	73.3	73.0	73.2	72.7	71.9	71.5	71.4	1
Mississippi	58.7	58.6	58.7	58.6	58.7	59.2	58.2	57.3	57.7	57.5	58
Missouri	66.4	66.8	67.3	67.1	67.1	67.3	66.7	65.7	65.0	64.6	18
Montana	63.7	63.3	63.5	64.3	64.7	64.8	64.1	63.6	63.1	63.3	28
Nebraska	71.7	71.9	71.9	72.2	71.9	72.1	71.5	70.8	71.1	71.2	2
Nevada	65.8	65.9	66.1	66.4	66.6	66.8	66.6	65.3	64.6	64.0	22
New Hampshire	68.9	69.0	70.0	70.7	71.2	71.2	70.0	68.8	68.2	68.3	8
New Jersey	62.1	62.8	64.0	63.7	64.0	64.1	63.3	62.7	62.2	62.7	34
New Mexico	59.4	58.7	59.1	59.5	59.6	60.2	60.3	60.1	59.8	59.9	49
New York	57.2	57.8	58.9	59.4	59.8	60.2	59.5	59.0	58.5	59.1	52
North Carolina	64.0	64.8	65.3	64.7	64.9	64.8	63.9	62.7	62.4	62.4	36
North Dakota	69.2	69.2	69.1	69.3	69.2	69.2	68.9	68.8	68.9	68.9	5
Ohio	62.9	63.1	63.7	64.0	64.4	64.6	64.1	63.0	62.7	62.6	35
Oklahoma	60.7	61.0	61.5	61.9	62.1	62.3	62.1	61.5	61.0	60.9	43
Oregon	64.7	64.7	65.0	65.0	64.9	65.1	63.8	62.4	61.5	61.4	41
Pennsylvania	59.2	60.2	61.3	61.3	61.4	61.4	61.5	61.4	60.4	61.1	42
Rhode Island	60.9	62.1	63.5	63.6	64.4	64.0	63.0	63.2	63.7	62.9	33
South Carolina	62.4	62.6	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.6	60.4	59.6	59.7	59.7	50
South Dakota	69.4	69.6	69.8	70.6	71.0	70.9	70.5	70.8	70.7	70.5	3
Tennessee	63.2	62.9	62.6	62.8	63.0	63.1	62.0	61.4	60.8	60.3	47
Texas	65.0	65.2	65.5	65.6	65.4	65.2	64.7	63.9	63.5	63.2	30
Utah	69.7	69.1	69.4	69.6	69.5	69.3	68.7	67.8	67.4	67.2	11
Vermont	68.1	68.4	68.8	69.5	69.6	68.8	68.2	68.2	68.0	68.2	9
Virginia	66.6	64.4	64.9	65.4	65.7	65.8	65.6	65.3	65.5	65.6	15
Washington	64.0	64.7	66.0	66.4	66.2	64.9	62.9	62.3	62.3	63.5	26
West Virginia	50.4	51.2	52.0	52.6	53.2	53.5	53.3	52.5	51.7	51.4	60
Wisconsin	71.0	71.2	71.6	71.5	71.1	70.7	69.9	68.7	68.4	68.2	10
Wyoming	67.1	66.5	66.7	67.5	68.1	68.6	68.9	68.2	68.2	68.6	7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PI8 (SI): Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
British Columbia	0.58	0.26	(0.25)	(0.36)	(0.36)	(0.21)	(0.21)	(0.03)	0.19	0.18	22
Alberta	0.28	0.95	1.52	0.87	0.77	0.68	0.86	0.38	0.34	0.52	9
Saskatchewan	(0.21)	(0.27)	(0.19)	(0.43)	(0.78)	(0.83)	(0.88)	(0.52)	(0.45)	(0.46)	56
Manitoba	(0.32)	(0.52)	(0.46)	(0.19)	(0.30)	(0.38)	(0.38)	(0.25)	(0.22)	(0.33)	50
Ontario	(0.03)	0.02	0.08	0.15	0.19	0.16	0.05	0.01	(0.06)	(0.07)	35
Quebec	(0.17)	(0.24)	(0.23)	(0.18)	(0.17)	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.03)	31
New Brunswick	(0.05)	(0.17)	(0.42)	(0.17)	(0.16)	(0.20)	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.10)	(0.22)	46
Nova Scotia	(0.13)	(0.18)	(0.28)	0.02	(0.03)	(0.22)	(0.10)	0.05	(0.08)	(0.05)	33
Prince Edward Island	0.47	0.10	(0.31)	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.05	0.12	0.10	(0.16)	42
Newfoundland & Labrador	(1.31)	(1.45)	(1.72)	(1.05)	(0.80)	(0.85)	(0.64)	(0.32)	(0.39)	(0.36)	53
Alabama	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.22	(0.01)	(0.08)	(0.14)	(0.13)	0.11	0.18	23
Alaska	(1.49)	(0.79)	(0.90)	(0.38)	(0.66)	(0.55)	(0.44)	0.12	(0.05)	(0.10)	36
Arizona	2.51	1.74	1.51	1.37	1.27	1.15	1.03	1.25	1.15	1.49	2
Arkansas	0.82	0.62	0.34	0.21	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.25	0.37	13
California	(1.23)	(0.81)	(0.47)	(0.29)	(0.25)	(0.19)	(0.14)	(0.32)	(0.27)	(0.41)	54
Colorado	1.28	0.99	0.98	0.94	1.12	1.02	0.92	0.23	(0.24)	(0.14)	40
Connecticut	(0.80)	(0.65)	(0.65)	(0.52)	(0.35)	(0.26)	(0.17)	(0.04)	0.03	(0.31)	49
Delaware	0.62	0.50	0.41	0.57	0.61	0.51	0.42	0.55	0.71	0.70	5
District of Columbia	(3.41)	(3.35)	(2.83)	(2.34)	(1.39)	(1.36)	(1.33)	(1.87)	(2.26)	(1.74)	61
Florida	0.72	0.82	0.89	0.77	0.58	0.78	0.97	1.12	1.05	1.47	3
Georgia	1.06	1.12	1.08	0.99	0.96	0.79	0.62	0.48	0.34	0.52	10
Hawaii	(1.06)	(1.07)	(1.09)	(1.19)	(1.69)	(1.05)	(0.40)	(0.18)	(0.03)	(0.06)	34
Idaho	1.60	0.93	0.90	0.62	0.61	0.59	0.58	0.61	0.77	0.92	4
Illinois	(0.46)	(0.54)	(0.58)	(0.57)	(0.55)	(0.55)	(0.55)	(0.59)	(0.50)	(0.56)	58
Indiana	0.24	0.20	0.06	0.00	(0.01)	(0.06)	(0.11)	(0.16)	0.01	(0.05)	32
Iowa	0.01	(0.09)	(0.20)	(0.17)	(0.11)	(0.26)	(0.42)	(0.40)	(0.27)	(0.11)	37
Kansas	(0.14)	(0.31)	(0.05)	0.11	(0.11)	(0.31)	(0.50)	(0.38)	(0.38)	(0.44)	55
Kentucky	0.34	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.21	0.10	(0.01)	0.10	0.26	0.19	20
Louisiana	(0.19)	(0.36)	(0.39)	(0.41)	(0.44)	(0.57)	(0.71)	(0.40)	(0.24)	(0.17)	44
Maine	(0.22)	0.14	0.11	0.03	0.29	0.43	0.58	0.76	0.76	0.43	11
Maryland	(0.11)	(0.25)	(0.27)	(0.18)	(0.09)	0.05	0.18	0.22	0.11	(0.11)	38
Massachusetts	(0.19)	(0.27)	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.14)	(0.26)	(0.37)	(0.62)	(0.75)	(0.92)	59
Michigan	(0.11)	(0.07)	(0.19)	(0.26)	(0.17)	(0.20)	(0.22)	(0.30)	(0.26)	(0.36)	52
Minnesota	0.17	0.26	0.11	0.11	0.29	0.22	0.15	(0.07)	(0.12)	(0.17)	43
Mississippi	0.43	0.22	0.23	0.13	0.04	(0.11)	(0.26)	(0.23)	(0.01)	0.14	24
Missouri	0.39	0.31	0.27	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.09	0.12	0.09	26
Montana	1.15	0.54	(0.17)	(0.25)	0.03	0.01	(0.00)	0.19	0.53	0.68	6
Nebraska	0.26	0.20	(0.11)	(0.32)	(0.28)	(0.37)	(0.46)	(0.33)	(0.17)	(0.30)	48
Nevada	3.53	3.34	3.52	2.67	2.35	2.36	2.37	2.13	2.11	2.90	1
New Hampshire	0.57	0.81	0.59	0.59	0.77	0.88	0.98	0.77	0.48	0.24	18
New Jersey	(0.46)	(0.54)	(0.53)	(0.45)	(0.39)	(0.34)	(0.30)	(0.29)	(0.39)	(0.52)	57
New Mexico	0.61	0.28	(0.19)	(0.47)	(0.72)	(0.58)	(0.44)	0.23	0.24	0.31	15
New York	(1.22)	(1.27)	(1.25)	(1.04)	(0.92)	(0.89)	(0.87)	(0.92)	(0.93)	(1.12)	60
North Carolina	1.11	1.11	0.96	0.86	0.70	0.60	0.51	0.43	0.41	0.55	8
North Dakota	(0.22)	(0.20)	(0.80)	(0.99)	(1.11)	(1.11)	(1.11)	(0.75)	(0.44)	(0.22)	45
Ohio	(0.12)	(0.16)	(0.26)	(0.32)	(0.29)	(0.30)	(0.32)	(0.29)	(0.23)	(0.27)	47
Oklahoma	0.09	0.28	0.19	0.19	0.01	(0.12)	(0.25)	(0.00)	(0.08)	(0.13)	39
Oregon	1.07	1.04	0.78	0.48	0.32	0.37	0.42	0.63	0.38	0.05	28
Pennsylvania	(0.28)	(0.33)	(0.42)	(0.36)	(0.32)	(0.24)	(0.18)	(0.01)	0.07	(0.01)	30
Rhode Island	(0.94)	(0.63)	(0.57)	(0.34)	(0.10)	0.03	0.17	0.38	0.10	(0.14)	41
South Carolina	0.23	0.43	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.48	0.30	0.48	0.46	0.59	7
South Dakota	0.20	(0.21)	(0.60)	(0.53)	(0.24)	(0.22)	(0.20)	(0.24)	0.02	0.19	19
Tennessee	1.00	0.91	0.70	0.49	0.42	0.31	0.19	0.20	0.38	0.40	12
Texas	0.45	0.31	0.32	0.38	0.24	0.22	0.19	0.21	0.15	0.13	25
Utah	0.66	0.52	0.36	(0.34)	(0.41)	(0.42)	(0.42)	(0.36)	(0.54)	(0.33)	51
Vermont	0.27	0.24	(0.00)	(0.05)	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.28	0.14	0.04	29
Virginia	0.08	0.14	0.06	(0.06)	0.36	0.27	0.19	0.27	0.33	0.35	14
Washington	0.83	0.52	0.67	0.44	0.19	0.26	0.32	0.23	0.08	0.26	17
West Virginia	0.05	(0.10)	(0.20)	(0.25)	(0.35)	(0.31)	(0.28)	0.20	0.34	0.18	21
Wisconsin	0.25	0.21	(0.02)	(0.01)	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.09	0.06	0.06	27
Wyoming	0.12	(0.25)	(0.66)	(0.52)	(0.63)	(0.56)	(0.50)	0.53	0.04	0.27	16

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI11 (SI): University Completion, Bachelors and Above, (ages 25+)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
British Columbia	15.3	16.0	15.7	16.8	17.3	18.1	17.9	18.7	20.0	19.9	48
Alberta	15.4	15.3	16.1	15.9	16.5	16.4	18.3	18.6	18.7	18.5	52
Saskatchewan	10.9	11.4	11.3	12.1	12.7	13.2	13.1	14.0	14.5	14.6	59
Manitoba	12.6	13.2	13.9	14.6	14.7	15.9	16.1	16.1	16.6	17.0	56
Ontario	17.0	17.1	17.7	17.8	18.9	20.3	20.6	21.4	22.5	22.6	42
Quebec	14.0	14.2	15.1	15.3	15.9	16.3	17.2	17.2	18.1	18.4	53
New Brunswick	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.8	12.5	12.2	12.9	13.0	13.5	13.8	60
Nova Scotia	13.1	13.0	13.2	14.3	14.7	15.4	16.2	16.6	17.6	17.6	55
Prince Edward Island	12.3	11.2	12.1	12.4	12.6	11.8	14.0	13.8	14.8	14.9	58
Newfoundland & Labrador	9.3	8.5	9.5	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.0	61
Alabama	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.0	19.4	20.6	21.2	21.9	45
Alaska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.0	25.8	28.0	26.6	27.2	22
Arizona	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.5	23.3	23.2	24.3	24.7	29
Arkansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.7	18.0	19.7	19.0	18.1	54
California	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.5	28.2	28.5	29.1	29.4	13
Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.9	33.8	33.5	34.7	33.7	5
Connecticut	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33.3	32.8	32.9	34.6	34.6	4
Delaware	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.3	24.9	25.1	27.6	28.1	17
District of Columbia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	41.0	42.3	42.5	44.2	47.7	1
Florida	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.2	23.9	24.1	25.0	25.4	27
Georgia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.0	24.7	24.4	25.7	25.6	25
Hawaii	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.5	26.6	27.9	28.2	29.1	14
Idaho	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.9	22.4	22.6	24.0	23.8	38
Illinois	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.9	27.7	28.1	28.1	29.1	14
Indiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.8	20.3	20.6	21.0	21.5	46
Iowa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.1	22.6	22.2	22.5	23.9	37
Kansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.7	27.1	26.7	28.7	28.3	16
Kentucky	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.1	18.1	18.8	18.6	19.0	50
Louisiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.2	19.3	20.4	21.3	21.5	46
Maine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9	22.4	24.0	25.9	26.1	24
Maryland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31.5	32.8	33.1	34.5	34.8	3
Massachusetts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35.0	35.6	35.5	35.8	37.4	2
Michigan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9	23.2	23.6	24.3	24.6	31
Minnesota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.7	28.3	29.8	30.6	29.7	12
Mississippi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.6	18.9	17.7	18.7	18.9	51
Missouri	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9	23.0	23.9	24.1	24.3	34
Montana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.2	25.1	24.8	25.8	27.5	21
Nebraska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.8	25.0	24.8	25.3	26.6	23
Nevada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.2	18.7	18.6	19.5	19.3	49
New Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30.3	29.0	30.2	30.3	32.1	8
New Jersey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31.0	31.8	31.6	32.1	33.3	6
New Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.4	23.7	25.9	23.7	23.6	39
New York	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28.1	27.9	29.3	29.7	30.5	11
North Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.0	22.8	23.4	24.3	24.6	31
North Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9	23.3	23.8	25.0	24.0	36
Ohio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.5	21.7	21.9	23.0	23.3	40
Oklahoma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.2	20.4	20.7	21.9	22.2	43
Oregon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.7	25.4	25.9	26.4	27.7	20
Pennsylvania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.7	23.2	23.6	24.2	24.7	29
Rhode Island	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.4	27.4	26.7	29.1	28.1	17
South Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.2	22.8	22.7	23.2	24.6	31
South Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.5	23.7	23.6	23.1	23.2	41
Tennessee	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.8	20.4	21.0	21.5	22.2	43
Texas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.5	24.2	24.5	24.5	25.6	25
Utah	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.6	25.3	27.3	28.2	28.0	19
Vermont	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28.3	29.9	30.8	32.0	32.0	9
Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30.1	31.3	31.7	32.2	32.7	7
Washington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.4	29.5	29.7	30.2	31.3	10
West Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.3	15.4	16.1	17.0	16.3	57
Wisconsin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.6	23.2	23.2	23.8	24.1	35
Wyoming	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.2	23.4	23.4	23.7	24.8	28

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1993	1994 (int. for US)	1995	1996 (int. for US)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 rank
British Columbia	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	38
Alberta	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	46
Saskatchewan	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	41
Manitoba	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	42
Ontario	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	20
Quebec	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.7	14
New Brunswick	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	54
Nova Scotia	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	34
Prince Edward Island	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.8	55
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	53
Alabama	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.9	29
Alaska	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.0	49
Arizona	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	3.4	2.0	1.9	2.4	17
Arkansas	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	59
California	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.8	9
Colorado	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	18
Connecticut	2.6	3.2	3.6	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.2	4.1	7
Delaware	5.3	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.5	6.0	3.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	13
District of Columbia	5.6	6.1	6.6	6.2	5.6	5.0	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	8
Florida	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	47
Georgia	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	40
Hawaii	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	48
Idaho	2.1	2.8	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.6	10
Illinois	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.2	2.1	24
Indiana	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.1	23
Iowa	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4	35
Kansas	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	25
Kentucky	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	52
Louisiana	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	57
Maine	0.5	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	44
Maryland	6.0	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.9	4.5	4
Massachusetts	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.6	4.8	4.7	5.2	5.0	2
Michigan	4.9	4.9	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.4	5.8	5.6	4.6	4.3	6
Minnesota	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	15
Mississippi	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	50
Missouri	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	39
Montana	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.0	51
Nebraska	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	45
Nevada	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	58
New Hampshire	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	3.4	3.1	1.8	3.6	3.1	12
New Jersey	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.1	3.4	11
New Mexico	7.5	7.3	7.9	7.2	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.1	7.8	8.8	1
New York	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	32
North Carolina	1.6	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.7	31
North Dakota	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.8	2.5	1.5	33
Ohio	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	21
Oklahoma	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	56
Oregon	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.5	16
Pennsylvania	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.3	19
Rhode Island	2.1	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.6	5.7	5.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	5
South Carolina	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	36
South Dakota	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	60
Tennessee	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3	37
Texas	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	30
Utah	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	22
Vermont	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.1	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.1	26
Virginia	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	27
Washington	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	3
West Virginia	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	43
Wisconsin	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.9	28
Wyoming	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	61

Sources: Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation Note: int.=interpolated

PI23 (SI): Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 rank
British Columbia	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	3
Alberta	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	15
Saskatchewan	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.6	5
Manitoba	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	4
Ontario	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	10
Quebec	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	8
New Brunswick	5.9	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	2
Nova Scotia	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	7
Prince Edward Island	6.1	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.0	5.3	4.2	1
Newfoundland & Labrador	6.2	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.6	6
Alabama	9.0	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.7	9.6	9.9	10.0	57
Alaska	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	9
Arizona	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.1	26
Arkansas	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.9	49
California	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	20
Colorado	8.5	8.4	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.9	9.0	51
Connecticut	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.5	29
Delaware	7.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.6	9.3	9.9	9.4	55
District of Columbia	14.2	13.4	14.3	13.4	13.1	13.1	11.9	12.1	11.6	10.9	60
Florida	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.5	43
Georgia	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	51
Hawaii	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	8.1	8.3	8.6	45
Idaho	5.5	5.9	5.8	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.5	16
Illinois	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.3	41
Indiana	6.8	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.8	32
Iowa	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.6	6.6	20
Kansas	6.5	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	28
Kentucky	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.8	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	47
Louisiana	9.6	9.7	9.9	10.2	10.1	10.0	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.7	59
Maine	5.7	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.5	16
Maryland	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.6	9.0	9.0	9.1	54
Massachusetts	6.4	6.3	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	30
Michigan	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	39
Minnesota	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	14
Mississippi	9.9	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.7	10.7	11.2	11.4	61
Missouri	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	8.0	8.0	36
Montana	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.3	7.0	6.8	6.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	23
Nebraska	6.1	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.6	7.2	6.9	25
Nevada	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.5	8.1	37
New Hampshire	5.1	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.7	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.2	13
New Jersey	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1	37
New Mexico	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.5	43
New York	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	33
North Carolina	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	51
North Dakota	5.4	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.5	16
Ohio	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.3	41
Oklahoma	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.8	8.0	7.7	31
Oregon	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.1	11
Pennsylvania	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.9	8.2	7.9	33
Rhode Island	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.9	8.7	47
South Carolina	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.6	10.0	10.0	57
South Dakota	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.4	7.2	6.6	20
Tennessee	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.4	55
Texas	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.9	33
Utah	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	16
Vermont	6.0	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.5	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.4	7.1	26
Virginia	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.2	39
Washington	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	11
West Virginia	7.5	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.5	9.0	8.6	45
Wisconsin	6.4	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8	23
Wyoming	8.8	7.4	8.4	9.0	8.9	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.9	49

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

PI24 (SI): Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 rank
British Columbia	8,350	8,494	7,600	7,053	6,649	6,285	6,327	6,350	6,714	6,501	61
Alberta	4,762	4,713	4,716	4,578	4,429	4,142	4,145	4,347	4,786	4,709	44
Saskatchewan	5,647	5,864	5,875	5,782	5,516	5,737	5,798	5,642	6,484	6,055	59
Manitoba	5,936	5,801	5,497	5,223	5,241	5,155	5,284	5,126	5,768	5,870	58
Ontario	4,761	4,545	4,065	3,690	3,412	3,223	3,142	3,078	3,051	2,830	13
Quebec	4,339	4,512	4,279	4,035	3,662	3,603	3,445	3,261	3,253	3,139	20
New Brunswick	3,024	3,027	2,745	2,671	2,638	2,651	2,561	2,592	2,768	2,740	8
Nova Scotia	3,703	3,746	3,771	3,800	3,698	3,286	3,266	3,092	3,369	3,565	27
Prince Edward Island	3,121	3,124	2,886	2,425	2,792	2,783	2,756	3,015	3,350	3,239	23
Newfoundland & Labrador	2,243	2,521	2,386	2,459	2,300	2,303	2,183	2,368	2,482	2,587	6
Alabama	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,541	4,316	4,471	4,476	4,452	41
Alaska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,246	4,253	4,329	4,339	4,017	35
Arizona	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,790	6,089	6,407	6,147	5,845	57
Arkansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,107	4,134	4,161	4,074	4,512	42
California	5,811	5,185	4,833	4,301	3,765	3,725	3,899	3,958	4,006	3,971	33
Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,959	4,210	4,356	4,289	4,293	36
Connecticut	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,226	3,110	2,999	2,912	2,914	15
Delaware	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,462	4,056	3,945	4,039	3,732	30
District of Columbia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,289	7,742	8,111	7,485	6,230	60
Florida	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,671	5,584	5,431	5,188	4,891	49
Georgia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,726	4,642	4,518	4,713	4,721	45
Hawaii	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,196	5,397	6,095	5,547	5,047	53
Idaho	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,172	3,133	3,168	3,150	3,039	18
Illinois	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,279	4,086	4,021	3,843	3,729	29
Indiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,745	3,823	3,750	3,708	3,723	28
Iowa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,231	3,292	3,451	3,236	3,176	21
Kansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,402	4,311	4,091	4,387	4,348	39
Kentucky	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,954	2,936	2,905	2,943	2,783	10
Louisiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,422	5,337	5,104	4,999	5,049	54
Maine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,615	2,688	2,649	2,559	2,513	5
Maryland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,802	4,863	4,762	4,503	4,341	38
Massachusetts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,020	3,091	3,102	3,025	2,918	16
Michigan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,103	4,076	3,877	3,788	3,548	25
Minnesota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,478	3,574	3,531	3,376	3,309	24
Mississippi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,999	4,185	4,165	4,044	3,774	31
Missouri	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,519	4,765	4,597	4,476	4,394	40
Montana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,528	3,681	3,508	3,461	3,230	22
Nebraska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,091	4,316	4,263	4,005	3,829	32
Nevada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,226	4,288	4,508	4,900	4,822	47
New Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,424	2,322	2,219	2,201	2,207	3
New Jersey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,153	3,217	3,029	2,909	2,785	11
New Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,511	5,315	5,078	4,779	4,885	48
New York	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,096	2,914	2,805	2,710	2,640	7
North Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,902	4,931	4,726	4,725	4,608	43
North Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,292	2,411	2,407	2,175	1,996	1
Ohio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,038	4,172	4,111	3,973	4,015	34
Oklahoma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,554	4,598	4,751	4,819	4,743	46
Oregon	6,475	5,917	6,153	5,528	4,887	4,832	5,042	4,866	5,071	4,930	50
Pennsylvania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,994	2,958	2,843	2,828	2,826	12
Rhode Island	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,468	3,686	3,592	3,281	3,131	19
South Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,206	4,755	5,299	5,269	5,289	56
South Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,317	2,327	2,280	2,173	2,105	2
Tennessee	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,878	5,146	5,023	5,064	5,002	51
Texas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,932	5,150	5,203	5,151	5,034	52
Utah	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,456	4,222	4,446	4,473	4,322	37
Vermont	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,981	2,770	2,530	2,309	2,420	4
Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,017	3,179	3,149	2,988	2,952	17
Washington	6,213	5,870	5,859	5,786	5,178	5,091	5,148	5,108	5,102	5,193	55
West Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,604	2,560	2,510	2,615	2,777	9
Wisconsin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,203	3,319	3,253	3,103	2,873	14
Wyoming	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,296	3,520	3,577	3,577	3,564	26

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

Supplemental Information: International

Note: The full international data sets are not provided due to size restrictions. Data for 1990, 1995, 2000 and the most recent year are provided so that other researchers can replicate our results.

CT1 (SI): Gross Domestic Product [Per Head at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)]

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for Real GDP Per Capita, 2003
British Columbia	**22,747**	**24,182**	**25,744**	**26,488**	**17**
Australia	20,897	23,132	26,405	28,312	10
Austria	23,304	25,058	28,732	29,112	6
Belgium	21,789	23,187	26,264	26,694	15
Canada	23,267	23,955	28,029	29,102	7
Czech Republic	14,106	13,483	14,573	15,853	26
Denmark	23,515	25,478	28,498	28,937	8
Finland	22,143	20,666	25,687	26,974	13
France	22,001	22,991	25,966	26,542	16
Germany	21,512	23,306	25,576	25,817	19
Greece	13,647	14,113	16,287	18,292	24
Hungary	n/a	9,760	12,018	13,404	27
Iceland	23,902	23,135	28,252	28,750	9
Ireland	15,407	18,813	28,451	31,590	4
Italy	21,735	22,918	25,001	25,458	20
Japan	23,271	24,701	26,027	26,197	18
Korea	9,937	13,759	16,351	18,396	23
Luxembourg	33,041	37,386	49,118	51,256	1
Mexico	7,852	7,633	9,098	8,930	30
Netherlands	21,857	23,428	27,329	27,117	12
New Zealand	17,581	18,836	20,473	22,017	22
Norway	26,673	31,349	36,305	37,235	2
Poland	7,299	8,030	10,398	11,076	29
Portugal	13,522	14,662	17,374	17,181	25
Slovak Republic	n/a	9,049	10,766	12,260	28
Spain	16,625	17,746	21,093	22,123	21
Sweden	22,904	23,060	26,920	27,876	11
Switzerland	29,041	27,984	30,384	29,879	5
Turkey	5,756	6,147	6,816	6,869	31
United Kingdom	20,673	22,150	25,524	26,852	14
United States	28,200	29,907	34,574	35,489	3
Euro Area	20,483	21,797	24,616	25,151	n/a
OECD Total	18,880	19,943	22,409	22,891	n/a
OECD Europe	20,663	21,929	24,789	25,404	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

CT1 (SI): Growth in GDP [Per Head at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)], percent

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for Real GDP per capita Growth, 2002 - 2003
British Columbia	**(1.15)**	**0.02**	**3.56**	**1.34**	**16**
Australia	(1.47)	2.87	0.81	2.51	9
Austria	3.81	1.75	3.11	0.34	23
Belgium	2.85	2.17	3.63	0.83	21
Canada	(1.35)	1.72	4.27	1.16	18
Czech Republic	n/a	5.99	3.99	3.71	5
Denmark	0.81	2.28	2.50	0.44	22
Finland	(0.78)	3.06	4.90	2.16	10
France	2.13	1.99	3.47	0.19	24
Germany	4.81	1.59	3.08	(0.05)	27
Greece	(0.70)	1.83	4.14	4.48	1
Hungary	n/a	0.82	5.48	3.24	7
Iceland	0.36	(0.43)	4.19	3.62	6
Ireland	8.59	9.17	8.51	1.97	13
Italy	1.89	2.75	2.82	0.08	26
Japan	4.84	1.51	2.19	1.16	19
Korea	8.09	8.08	7.58	2.59	8
Luxembourg	4.13	(0.03)	7.53	2.05	11
Mexico	3.68	(7.01)	5.02	0.15	25
Netherlands	3.36	2.51	2.73	(1.35)	30
New Zealand	(1.21)	2.49	1.72	1.97	14
Norway	1.70	3.85	2.17	(0.20)	28
Poland	n/a	6.83	5.03	3.95	4
Portugal	4.35	3.94	2.83	(1.83)	31
Slovak Republic	n/a	5.52	1.94	4.45	2
Spain	3.62	2.61	3.62	1.22	17
Sweden	0.25	3.51	4.16	1.09	20
Switzerland	2.68	(0.24)	3.01	(1.19)	29
Turkey	6.71	5.33	4.75	4.17	3
United Kingdom	0.48	2.56	3.50	1.80	15
United States	0.72	1.33	2.55	2.05	12
Euro Area	3.13	2.24	3.30	0.27	n/a
OECD Total	2.56	2.27	3.16	0.54	n/a
OECD Europe	2.16	1.70	2.98	1.29	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (Percent - for those aged 15-64)

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for Employment to Population Ratio, 2004
British Columbia	**71.0**	**70.5**	**70.1**	**70.9**	**11**
Australia	67.9	67.5	69.2	69.5	12
Austria	n/a	68.6	68.2	67.8	15
Belgium	54.4	56.3	60.9	60.5	25
Canada	70.3	67.4	70.9	72.6	9
Czech Republic	n/a	69.4	65.2	64.2	19
Denmark	75.4	73.9	76.4	76.0	3
Finland	74.1	61.1	67.0	67.2	16
France	59.9	59.1	61.1	62.4	21
Germany	64.1	64.6	65.6	65.5	18
Greece	54.8	54.5	55.9	59.6	26
Hungary	n/a	52.9	56.0	56.8	29
Iceland	n/a	80.5	84.6	82.8	1
Ireland	52.1	54.1	64.5	65.5	17
Italy	52.6	51.2	53.9	57.4	27
Japan	68.6	69.2	68.9	68.7	13
Korea	61.2	63.5	61.5	63.6	20
Luxembourg	59.2	58.5	62.7	61.6	23
Mexico	n/a	58.2	60.9	60.8	24
Netherlands	61.8	65.1	72.1	72.7	8
New Zealand	67.5	70.1	70.7	73.5	5
Norway	73.0	73.5	77.9	75.6	4
Poland	n/a	58.1	55.0	51.9	30
Portugal	67.4	63.2	68.3	67.8	14
Slovak Republic	n/a	60.2	56.8	57.0	28
Spain	51.8	48.3	57.4	62.0	22
Sweden	83.1	72.2	74.2	73.5	6
Switzerland	n/a	76.7	78.3	77.4	2
Turkey	54.5	52.4	48.9	46.1	31
United Kingdom	72.5	69.2	72.2	72.7	7
United States	72.2	72.5	74.1	71.2	10
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	70.3	67.4	70.9	72.6	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI3 (SI): International Exports of Goods and Services Per Capita, at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 ($US)

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for 2003 (of 31)
British Columbia	**6,244**	**8,093**	**9,239**	**7,562**	**17**
Australia	3,481	4,573	6,074	4,991	25
Austria	8,794	8,787	13,055	14,040	6
Belgium	15,426	16,017	22,458	21,758	3
Canada	6,062	9,036	12,920	11,192	10
Czech Republic	6,030	6,837	9,393	9,885	13
Denmark	8,425	9,005	12,542	12,367	8
Finland	5,026	7,585	11,042	10,013	12
France	4,695	5,235	7,417	6,827	19
Germany	5,289	5,583	8,536	9,168	15
Greece	2,464	2,488	4,167	3,630	27
Hungary	n/a	4,355	8,960	8,511	16
Iceland	8,263	8,468	9,809	10,393	11
Ireland	8,779	14,406	27,804	26,429	2
Italy	4,291	6,196	7,072	6,577	21
Japan	2,425	2,248	2,812	3,101	29
Korea	2,778	3,967	6,675	6,981	18
Luxembourg	34,397	40,780	74,610	70,448	1
Mexico	1,461	2,322	2,823	2,487	30
Netherlands	11,908	13,459	18,440	16,679	4
New Zealand	4,750	5,513	7,367	6,406	22
Norway	10,780	11,903	16,952	15,378	5
Poland	1,955	1,905	2,895	3,815	26
Portugal	4,454	4,432	5,480	5,169	24
Slovak Republic	n/a	5,274	7,625	9,525	14
Spain	2,612	3,869	6,124	5,828	23
Sweden	6,791	9,059	12,413	12,210	9
Switzerland	10,374	9,914	13,880	13,181	7
Turkey	765	1,223	1,639	1,881	31
United Kingdom	4,967	6,275	7,170	6,822	20
United States	2,706	3,308	3,882	3,390	28
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI9 (SI): Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 28)
British Columbia	**23.9**	**21.1**	**17.8**	**20.5**	**14**
Australia	24.2	22.6	22.9	24.6	5
Austria	22.6	22.1	22.8	21.7	12
Belgium	22.5	19.9	21.2	18.5	23
Canada	21.3	17.6	19.2	20.1	16
Czech Republic	n/a	31.6	27.7	27.3	3
Denmark	19.9	18.6	20.0	19.7	17
Finland	n/a	16.7	19.7	18.8	22
France	21.6	18.1	19.5	19.2	20
Germany	n/a	21.9	21.5	17.4	27
Greece	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	n/a	20.0	23.5	22.6	9
Iceland	n/a	n/a	23.9	22.0	11
Ireland	n/a	n/a	24.3	24.4	6
Italy	21.5	18.3	19.8	19.5	18
Japan	32.3	27.8	26.4	23.8	7
Korea	37.1	37.3	31.1	29.5	1
Luxembourg	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	16.1	21.4	20.2	15
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.4	19
New Zealand	20.1	21.2	20.4	22.7	8
Norway	21.5	19.9	18.6	18.0	25
Poland	n/a	17.4	23.5	18.3	24
Portugal	n/a	22.8	28.1	22.6	10
Slovak Republic	n/a	25.0	25.9	24.7	4
Spain	n/a	21.5	25.8	27.9	2
Sweden	23.1	16.0	17.7	16.0	29
Switzerland	29.1	23.3	22.8	20.9	13
Turkey	22.9	23.8	22.4	17.8	26
United Kingdom	20.5	16.3	17.0	16.3	28
United States	18.3	18.2	20.2	19.1	21
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	21.6	20.3	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI9 (SI): Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP					
	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 15)
British Columbia	**21.0**	**18.3**	**15.3**	**18.1**	**4**
Australia	21.5	20.0	20.5	22.4	1
Austria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belgium	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada	18.3	15.0	16.9	17.5	5
Czech Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Denmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finland	n/a	13.9	17.1	15.8	10
France	18.1	14.9	16.4	16.0	8
Germany	n/a	19.7	19.7	16.0	7
Greece	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iceland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ireland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Italy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Japan	25.8	19.7	19.6	18.9	2
Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	12.4	17.8	15.4	11
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.3	6
New Zealand	15.2	18.3	17.5	18.6	3
Norway	18.0	16.7	15.9	15.2	12
Poland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portugal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slovak Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spain	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sweden	n/a	12.4	15.1	13.1	15
Switzerland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	15.6	19.9	16.4	14.1	13
United Kingdom	20.0	14.8	15.9	13.8	14
United States	14.6	15.0	17.1	16.0	9
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2002	Rank for 2002 (of 31)
British Columbia	**0.99**	**1.03**	**1.26**	**1.36**	**19**
Australia	1.31	1.58***	1.56	1.62	18
Austria	1.36	1.54	1.91	2.12	12
Belgium	1.65††	1.72	2.04	2.23	11
Canada	1.53	1.72	1.93	1.96	13
Czech Republic	2.02†††	0.95	1.23	1.22	20
Denmark	1.57	1.84	2.19**	2.53	7
Finland	1.88	2.28	3.40	3.44	2
France	2.37	2.31	2.18	2.26	10
Germany	2.67	2.25	2.49	2.53	7
Greece	0.37††	0.49	0.67**	0.65*	28
Hungary	1.06†††	0.73	0.80	1.02	25
Iceland	0.99	1.57	2.75	3.09	4
Ireland	0.83	1.28	1.14	1.12	23
Italy	1.29	1.00	1.07	1.16	21
Japan	2.97	2.90	2.99	3.12	3
Korea	1.82†††	2.37	2.39	2.53	7
Luxembourg	n/a	n/a	1.71	n/a	16
Mexico	n/a	0.31	0.37	0.39*	31
Netherlands	2.07	1.99	1.90	1.80	15
New Zealand	0.99	0.96	1.01**	1.14*	22
Norway	1.68††	1.70	1.65**	1.67	17
Poland	0.90	0.65	0.66	0.58	29
Portugal	0.51	0.57	0.80	0.94	26
Slovak Republic	1.66	0.93	0.65	0.58	29
Spain	0.82	0.81	0.94	1.03	24
Sweden	2.80††	3.35	3.65**	4.27*	1
Switzerland	2.74††	2.67†	2.57	2.57+	6
Turkey	0.32	0.38	0.64	0.66	27
United Kingdom	2.15	1.95	1.86	1.90	14
United States	2.65	2.51	2.72	2.66	5
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: *=2001; +=2000; **=1999; ***=1994; †=1996; ††=1989; †††=1991

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI15 (SI): Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Gigagrams (Gg) of CO2 Equivalent

	1990	1995	2000	2002	Rank for 2002 (of 28)
British Columbia	**15.6**	**15.8**	**15.9**	**15.1**	**21**
Australia	25.0	24.7	26.5	26.4	28
Austria	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.5	11
Belgium	14.7	15.3	14.6	14.6	20
Canada	22.0	23.0	23.6	23.3	25
Czech Republic	18.5	14.4	14.4	14.0	19
Denmark	13.4	14.7	12.7	12.7	17
Finland	15.4	14.9	14.5	15.8	22
France	9.7	9.4	9.2	9.0	5
Germany	15.7	13.5	12.4	12.3	16
Greece	10.4	10.6	12.3	12.3	15
Hungary	10.9	7.5	7.6	7.7	2
Iceland	13.0	11.6	11.9	11.0	13
Ireland	15.2	16.0	18.0	17.5	23
Italy	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.5	6
Japan	9.6	10.6	10.5	10.4	10
Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	35.2	25.0	21.8	24.3	27
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	14.1	14.5	13.4	13.2	18
New Zealand	18.1	17.5	18.2	18.9	24
Norway	12.3	11.9	12.3	12.2	14
Poland	14.8	10.8	10.1	10.0	9
Portugal	5.8	6.8	7.7	7.9	4
Slovak Republic	13.7	10.0	9.1	9.6	7
Spain	7.3	8.0	9.6	9.7	8
Sweden	8.4	8.4	7.6	7.8	3
Switzerland	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.1	1
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
United Kingdom	13.0	11.8	11.0	10.7	12
United States	24.5	24.3	24.9	24.1	26
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

PI17 (SI): Life Expectancy at Birth, Years

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for 2003 (of 31)
British Columbia	**78.0**	**78.6**	**80.2**	**80.7**	**2**
Australia	77.0	77.9	79.3	80.3	6
Austria	75.5	76.6	78.1	78.6	13
Belgium	76.1	76.8	77.7	78.1*	19
Canada	77.4	78.1	79.2	79.5	9
Czech Republic	71.5	73.2	75.1	75.3	26
Denmark	74.9	75.3	76.9	77.2	23
Finland	74.9	76.5	77.6	78.5	15
France	76.9	77.9	79.0	79.4	11
Germany	75.2	76.5	78.0	78.4	17
Greece	77.1	77.7	78.1	78.1	19
Hungary	69.4	69.9	71.7	72.4	30
Iceland	78.0	78.0	79.7	80.6	3
Ireland	74.9	75.7	76.5	77.8*	21
Italy	76.9	78.1	79.6	79.9	8
Japan	78.9	79.6	81.2	81.8	1
Korea	71.4**	73.5	76.0**	76.9*	25
Luxembourg	75.4	76.6	78.0	78.2*	18
Mexico	71.2	72.7	74.1	74.9	27
Netherlands	77.4	77.5	78.0	78.6	13
New Zealand	75.4	77.1	78.7	78.7*	12
Norway	76.6	77.8	78.7	79.5	10
Poland	71.5	72.0	73.8	74.7	28
Portugal	73.9	75.2	76.6	77.3	22
Slovak Republic	71.0	72.4	73.3	73.9*	29
Spain	76.8	77.9	79.1	80.5	4
Sweden	77.6	78.8	79.7	80.2	7
Switzerland	77.4	78.5	79.8	80.4*	5
Turkey	66.5	67.2	68.1	68.7	31
United Kingdom	75.7	76.6	77.9	78.5	15
United States	75.3	75.7	76.8	77.2*	23
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD *=2002, **=interpolated

PI23 (SI): Low Birth Weight Rate, percent

	1990	1995	2000	2003	1994 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1994 - 2003 Average
British Columbia	**5.0**	**5.3**	**5.2**	**5.4**	**5.2**	**8**
Australia	6.1	5.9	6.3	n/a	6.1	15
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.3	7.1	6.2	17
Belgium	6.1	6.5	n/a	n/a	6.3	21
Canada	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.9	5.7	10
Czech Republic	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.6	5.9	12
Denmark	5.2	5.5	4.9	5.5	5.3	9
Finland	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.2	3
France	5.3	5.8	6.4	6.6	6.2	17
Germany	5.7	6.1	n/a	n/a	6.4	22
Greece	6.0	6.8	8.1	n/a	7.5	27
Hungary	9.3	8.2	8.4	8.7	8.4	31
Iceland	2.9	4.4	3.9	3.1	3.9	2
Ireland	4.2	4.7	4.8	0.0	4.8	5
Italy	5.6	6.0	6.7	0.0	6.2	19
Japan	6.3	7.5	8.6	9.1	8.2	30
Korea	n/a	3.0	3.8	4.1	3.5	1
Luxembourg	5.4	5.7	n/a	n/a	5.8	11
Mexico	n/a	n/a	6.1	0.0	6.8	24
Netherlands	4.8	n/a	n/a	0.0	5.2	7
New Zealand	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.3	20
Norway	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.9	4.9	6
Poland	8.1	6.7	5.7	5.9	6.2	16
Portugal	5.6	6.0	7.1	7.4	6.9	25
Slovak Republic	5.8	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.6	23
Spain	4.5	5.5	6.5	0.0	6.0	14
Sweden	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	4
Switzerland	5.1	5.5	5.9	0.0	5.9	13
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.9	29
United Kingdom	6.7	7.2	7.5	0.0	7.4	26
United States	7.1	7.3	7.6	7.9	7.6	28
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI26 (SI): Long-Term Unemployment, percent of unemployed

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)
British Columbia	**6.5**	**10.6**	**10.2**	**8.9**	**3.0**
Australia	21.6	30.8	29.1	20.7	10.0
Austria	..	29.1	25.8	24.5	15.0
Belgium	68.5	62.4	56.3	49.5	26.0
Canada	7.1	16.3	10.8	9.1	4.0
Czech Republic	..	31.2	48.8	51.8	28.0
Denmark	29.9	27.9	20.0	22.6	12.0
Finland	..	37.6	29.0	23.4	14.0
France	38.1	42.5	42.6	41.6	22.0
Germany	46.8	48.7	51.5	51.8	28.0
Greece	49.8	51.4	56.4	54.7	30.0
Hungary	..	50.6	49.0	45.1	23.0
Iceland	..	16.8	11.8	11.2	6.0
Ireland	66.0	61.6	..	34.3	19.0
Italy	69.8	63.6	61.3	49.7	27.0
Japan	19.1	18.1	25.5	33.7	18.0
Korea	2.6	4.4	2.3	1.1	1.0
Luxembourg	47.4	23.2	22.4	22.6	12.0
Mexico	..	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0
Netherlands	49.3	46.8	..	32.5	16.0
New Zealand	20.9	25.5	19.2	11.7	7.0
Norway	20.4	24.2	5.4	9.2	5.0
Poland	..	40.0	37.9	47.9	24.0
Portugal	44.9	50.9	42.9	47.9	24.0
Slovak Republic	..	54.1	54.6	60.6	31.0
Spain	54.0	57.1	47.6	37.7	20.0
Sweden	12.1	27.8	26.4	18.9	9.0
Switzerland	..	33.6	29.0	33.5	17.0
Turkey	46.7	36.3	21.1	39.2	21.0
United Kingdom	34.4	43.6	28.0	21.4	11.0
United States	5.5	9.7	6.0	12.7	8.0
EU 15	49.5	50.3	46.9	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	31.2	34.2	31.6	32.0	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Supplemental Information: Topic Boxes

CT1 - CT3 (SI): Historical Comparison

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Growth Rate of Real GDP ($1997) Per Capita																	
BC	4.9	2.2	6.3	(2.1)	(2.6)	8.4	3.0	1.3	1.2	3.3	5.0	(7.7)	(0.5)	(0.6)	5.9	(0.8)	4.6
Canada	2.8	4.2	5.7	2.3	0.3	3.8	2.3	2.9	2.8	0.9	2.2	(4.0)	1.7	4.8	3.8	1.4	2.9
Growth Rate of Real PDI ($1997) Per Capita																	
BC	4.9	10.1	9.5	4.0	3.5	3.6	4.3	3.4	4.2	4.8	2.3	(3.5)	(5.3)	0.1	1.8	(0.8)	2.2
Canada	4.3	7.4	7.8	5.4	3.3	3.5	0.9	3.2	2.3	1.7	2.8	(0.8)	(3.3)	3.0	2.7	0.1	1.0
Employment Rate (ages 15-64)																	
BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.4	63.4	64.8	65.9	67.9	68.7	64.1	63.1	62.5	63.2	65.4	67.0
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.1	62.9	63.6	65.3	66.0	66.9	63.9	63.7	64.6	65.8	67.2	68.5

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Growth Rate of Real GDP ($1997) Per Capita																	
BC	3.6	0.6	(1.5)	(2.3)	(0.2)	1.6	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.1)	1.2	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.6	1.8	2.8
Canada	3.6	0.8	(1.3)	(3.3)	(0.3)	1.2	3.7	1.7	0.6	3.2	3.2	4.7	4.3	0.7	1.9	1.1	2.0
Growth Rate of Real PDI ($1997) Per Capita																	
BC	3.5	4.9	0.4	(3.4)	(1.7)	(1.2)	(1.0)	(0.0)	(1.9)	0.0	0.0	1.9	3.3	1.7	0.2	0.4	1.4
Canada	3.7	3.0	(0.1)	(2.9)	(0.6)	(1.0)	(0.8)	1.1	(1.0)	0.8	2.1	2.2	4.1	1.7	0.4	1.2	1.4
Employment Rate (ages 15-64)																	
BC	68.7	70.8	71.0	70.1	70.0	70.0	70.6	70.5	69.5	69.5	68.5	69.3	70.1	68.9	69.2	70.2	70.9
Canada	70.0	70.7	70.3	68.2	66.8	66.4	67.0	67.4	67.2	67.8	68.8	69.9	70.9	70.8	71.4	72.2	72.6

Source: BC Stats using Statistics Canada data.

PI8 (SI): Population Changes

	1990 - 1995		1995 - 2000		2000 - 2005		1990 - 2005	
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change
BC	486,190	14.8	262,194	6.9	215,324	5.3	963,708	29.3
AB	187,349	7.4	270,425	9.9	251,876	8.4	709,650	27.9
SK	7,012	0.7	(6,359)	(0.6)	(13,641)	(1.4)	(12,988)	(1.3)
MB	23,478	2.1	18,227	1.6	30,183	2.6	71,888	6.5
ON	652,101	6.3	735,404	6.7	856,030	7.3	2,243,535	21.8
QC	215,570	3.1	137,583	1.9	241,117	3.3	594,270	8.5
NB	10,859	1.5	(461)	(0.1)	1,488	0.2	11,886	1.6
NS	18,556	2.0	5,688	0.6	4,008	0.4	28,252	3.1
PE	3,868	3.0	2,079	1.5	1,627	1.2	7,574	5.8
NF	(10,595)	(1.8)	(39,399)	(6.9)	(12,082)	(2.3)	(62,076)	(10.7)
Canada	1,604,561	5.8	1,386,944	4.7	1,581,472	5.2	4,572,977	16.5

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI24 (SI): Crime Rates for Canadian and American Cities, 2004, per 100,000 population

	Violent Crime				Property Crime				Total	Rank (of 18)
	Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft	Total		
Vancouver	2.6	184	148	335	1,325	1,104	4,167	6,596	6,931	17
Winnipeg	4.9	254	229	488	1,124	1,932	3,418	6,475	6,963	18
Phoenix	8.0	304	151	462	1,049	1,175	3,254	5,478	5,940	16
Dallas	7.3	306	207	520	1,080	573	3,301	4,954	5,474	14
Edmonton	3.4	176	141	320	1,129	1,018	3,467	5,614	5,934	15
Houston	8.0	412	264	684	995	601	2,773	4,369	5,053	13
Calgary	1.9	155	91	248	815	457	2,417	3,688	3,937	12
Detroit[1]	10.0	384	176	570	607	821	1,851	3,279	3,849	11
Montreal	1.7	164	150	316	894	663	1,894	3,451	3,767	10
Washington[2]	7.9	230	188	426	457	680	2,191	3,328	3,755	9
Hamilton	1.3	112	88	201	680	540	1,735	2,955	3,156	6
Los Angeles	8.6	399	224	632	559	653	1,652	2,864	3,496	8
Philadelphia[3]	8.3	322	246	576	507	419	1,911	2,837	3,413	7
Ottawa	1.0	121	78	200	663	313	1,756	2,733	2,933	5
Quebec	0.8	78	59	138	783	277	1,659	2,720	2,858	4
Toronto	1.8	141	103	245	449	325	1,436	2,211	2,456	2
New York	5.0	240	199	445	342	280	1,455	2,077	2,521	3
Boston	2.6	258	117	120	443	328	1,556	2,327	2,447	1
BC	2.7	177	108	287	1,258	890	4,158	6,305	6,592	n/a
Canada	2.0	156	86	244	860	531	2,185	3,576	3,820	n/a
US	5.5	291	137	433	730	421	2,366	3,517	3,950	n/a

Sources: Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation; Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE. Notes: [1]2002 rate for motor vehicle theft; [2]2003 rates for break and enter and theft; [3]data are from 2003.

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December 2005

BCPROGRESSBOARD

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 15, 2005

BC Progress Board Releases 2005 Annual Benchmarking Report – Volume II, Internal Performance Review: Regional and Inter-Regional

Vancouver, BC – The BC Progress Board tabled its Fifth Annual Benchmarking Report, *"Comparing BC's Performance: Reaching our Potential"* today with the provincial government. **Volume II** of the comprehensive two volume report benchmarks British Columbia's performance regionally (urban versus rural) and inter-regionally. This year, findings for the Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) are available for inclusion for the first time, in addition to Vancouver CMA, Victoria CMA and Regional BC agglomerations. Indicators within Volume II reflect final outcome data, usually for 2004. The report also provides further inter-regional benchmarking by Development Region and Health Authority.

Vancouver CMA continues to outperform Regional BC on **8** of 10 comparable indicators covering ***economy, innovation, and education***, unchanged since last year's report. The indicators include: employment rate (2004), taxfiler's employment income (2003), housing starts (2004), non-residential building permits (2004), secondary school graduates (2004), university completion (2004), scientists and engineers employed (2004), and net new business formation (2004). Regional BC performed better than Vancouver CMA on manufacturing shipments (2004), and retail sales (2004).

"Regional BC has generally lagged behind the province's urban areas since we began our benchmarking in 2001", noted David Black, BC Progress Board Chair and President of Victoria-based Black Press Ltd. "Though absolute levels lag, employment growth, housing starts and net new business formation grew above levels for Vancouver CMA in percentage terms", Black continued. "Trends in these 'bellwether' economic indicators point to improving regional economic performance", Black noted.

This year's report contains a special topic report on the mountain pine beetle epidemic, a major economic and social challenge for British Columbia. "The Progress Board sees the mountain pine beetle epidemic as a major economic challenge for the province during the coming decade", Black stated. "Now is the time for all orders of government and community interests to begin planning strategies to mitigate against a probable economic slowdown once the majority of beetle killed wood is harvested", Black continued. "Of considerable concern is the possibility of provincial revenue declines and employment losses in the next decade".

BC's overall secondary school completion rate held steady at 79% in 2004/05, ranging from a high of 93% in Richmond school district to a low of 59% in Vancouver Island West. Meanwhile, for university completion (ages 25-54), Vancouver CMA's rate of 29.0% was above Victoria CMA (23.3%), Abbotsford CMA (12.2%), and Regional BC at 12.9%. "Efforts in recent years to add post-secondary capacity in the province's regions, together with greater on-line learning opportunities through initiatives such as BC Campus should improve regional university completion rates over time", noted Tim McEwan, Executive Director of the Progress Board. "Skilled worker shortages in many regions of the province also present a challenge for employers, education institutions and policy makers", McEwan continued.

This year's report also examines Aboriginal employment, income, and education trends. Among the findings:

- For the population aged 15-64, the non-Aboriginal population registered an employment rate of 71.5%, while the Aboriginal population had a rate of 58.0% or 13.5 percentage points lower in 2004;
- The non-Aboriginal unemployment rate was 6.6 %, versus 17.3% for the Aboriginal population in 2004. Meanwhile, the average hourly wage for the non-Aboriginal population was $19.15, or $2.13 higher than the average for the Aboriginal population; and,

- In 2003/04 the Aboriginal secondary school completion rate was 47% versus 82% for the non-Aboriginal population in British Columbia.

"The Progress Board encourages all orders of government to continue work underway to improve Aboriginal employment, income and education gaps over time", McEwan stated.

On measures of ***environment, health and society***, Vancouver CMA outperforms Regional BC on 5 of 8 measures including: air quality (2004), cancer mortality (2004), life expectancy at birth (2004), employment insurance recipients (2004), and income assistance (2004). Regional BC performs better on 3 indicators – low birth weight newborns (2004), personal and property crime (2004), and the incidence of low income (2003).

The report examines air quality in five communities around the province. Victoria had the lowest concentration of particulate matter in 2004, followed by Kamloops, Vancouver and Kelowna, while Prince George had the highest concentration of the communities examined. "Monitoring air quality in larger communities and confined air sheds is increasingly important as the province experiences better than national average economic growth", McEwan stated.

Turning to health outcomes:

- Overall life expectancy at birth is the same or higher in all regions of the province on a year-over-year basis in 2004, while there was absolute improvement in all regions between 1995 and 2004;
- Cardiovascular disease mortality decreased in the Interior, Vancouver Coastal, Vancouver Island and Northern Health Authorities between 2003 and 2004, while there was a small increase in the Fraser Health Authority; and,
- Cancer mortality rates increased in the Interior, Vancouver Coastal, and Vancouver Island Health Authorities between 2003 and 2004, while there were declines in the Northern and Fraser Health Authorities.

"Despite some year-to-year fluctuations, the general trend is one of improving health outcomes across the province during the last ten years", McEwan noted. "The one exception is the incidence of low birth weight newborns which showed a slight increase over the last ten years", McEwan commented, adding, "it is important to remember that BC ranks 2nd best among the 61 provinces and US states on this indicator".

BC's personal and property crime rate showed improvement between 2003 and 2004 in Abbotsford CMA, Vancouver CMA, and Regional BC, while there was a small increase in Victoria CMA. Between 1995 and 2004, crime rates fell by 26.1% in Vancouver CMA, 22.2% in Victoria CMA, and by 13.1% in Regional BC, while they increased by 6.7% in Abbotsford CMA. "Though crime rates have fallen during the last ten years, BC still has unacceptably high levels relative to other North American jurisdictions", David Black noted. "In 2006, the Progress Board intends to undertake a study of this 'all BC' problem", Black concluded.

The Fifth Annual Benchmarking Report, "Comparing BC's Performance: Reaching Our Potential", is available on the Progress Board's website: www.bcprogressboard.com. *The BC Progress Board is an independent Panel of 18 business and academic leaders which benchmark BC's economic, innovation, education, environment, health and social condition. The Board also advises on ways to improve provincial performance.*

Contact: Tim McEwan
Executive Director,
BC Progress Board
Tel: 604.775.1664

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BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

COMPARING BC's PERFORMANCE – REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

Volume II – Internal Performance Review: Regional

Backgrounder

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

This document is Volume II of the BC Progress Board's fifth annual benchmarking report, *Comparing BC's Performance: Reaching Our Potential*.

Special Topic: Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic - A Major Challenge for BC

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic, centred on BC's Central Interior, is the largest in recorded history. By the end of 2005, it will cover an estimated 10 million hectares, or 11% of the total land area of BC. Mountain pine beetles are endemic to BC's lodgepole pine, and there have been several epidemics throughout BC's history. The current epidemic has reached the current size because of two reasons: an abundance of lodgepole pine (covering 300% more area in 2000 than 1910) due in part to improved forest fire fighting practices, and a lack of cold temperatures (-40ºC in winter or -25ºC in early fall or late spring) that are necessary to kill a sufficient amount of beetles.

Controlling the infestation is no longer a possibility. Measures need to be focussed on: tapping all possible economic value from beetle killed trees, preventing the spread to ensure other provinces aren't infested, reforestation that encourages ecological diversity and promotes the growth of trees that can be harvested soon after the beetle epidemic runs its course, and encouraging economic diversification in the communities most affected by the epidemic.

Increased Annual Allowable Cuts in the affected Timber Supply Areas will create a short-term economic boom. However, this boom will be followed by an economic, employment and ecological bust if all interests don't work together to find new uses for beetle-stained wood in the short-term, and promote economic and ecological diversification in the medium-term.

Benchmarking Regional and Urban Performance

The Progress Board broadly benchmarks Regional and Urban Performance on 18 indicators of economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society.

On indicators of ***economy, innovation and education***, urban British Columbia (defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area - CMA) outperforms regional BC (outside the Lower Mainland) on eight out of ten performance indicators: employment rate, taxfilers' employment income, housing starts, non-residential building permits, secondary school graduates, university completion, employment in natural sciences and related occupations, and net new business formation. Regional BC continues to perform better than urban BC on retail sales and manufacturing shipments. Some key findings include:

- Half of all manufacturing shipments originate outside of Vancouver and Victoria. The proportion of shipments from these two cities fell between 1990 and 1999 but rebounded since 1999. In 2003, Vancouver was responsible for 47.8% of all shipments, Victoria for only 2.2%, Abbotsford for 3.7% and Regional BC for the remaining 50.0%.

- Real per capita retail sales were $8,556 in the Vancouver CMA and $9,752 in the Victoria CMA, Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC combined in 2004. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year between 1995 and 1999 and again in 2003 and 2004; areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1995, 1998 and 2003.
- Housing starts per 1,000 population in 2004 were up 98% in Regional BC, 127% in the Vancouver CMA, 151% in the Abbotsford CMA and 164% in the Victoria CMA over their level in 2000. The year 2000 was a trough year for the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs while 2001 was a trough for Regional BC.
- The inflation adjusted value of non-residential building permits in 2004 in the Vancouver CMA was marginally higher (0.2% or $1.9 million) than the value of permits in 1995. In contrast, the real value of permits was 21.3% ($29.9 million) lower in 2004 in the Victoria CMA than in 1995 and was 22.7% ($154.5 million) lower in Regional BC.
- The percentage of BC's population with a university education grew by 26.7% between 1995 and 2004. Over the same period, the Vancouver CMA had growth of 28.9%, Regional BC had growth of 26.6%, the Abbotsford CMA's ratio fell by 11.1% and the Victoria CMA's proportion of the population (aged 25-64) with a university education fell by 6.4%.

Supplemental indicators benchmarking inter-regional performance outcomes on: Jobs (employment rate), Employment Income, and Manufacturing Shipments by Development Region are included. High school completion by school district and benchmarking of Aboriginal employment, income and education against the general population are retained and updated where possible. While there is little in the way of data updates for the Aboriginal population, the importance of the topic merits its continued inclusion. Some key findings include:

- The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2004 and for the 1995 through 2004 average. Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the development regions was 53.7% – in the Kootenay Development Region in 1997 and in the Vancouver Island and Coast Development Region in 2001. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 2003 value of 72.4%.
- Seven development regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1994 and 2003. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 7.2%. The increases range from 1.6% in the Cariboo Development Region to 13.2% in the Northeast.
- The Cariboo and Nechako Development Regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,739 and $18,591, respectively, and, in reverse order, the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast development region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,547 and for 1998-2002 at $5,092.
- In 2004/05, BC had a completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students. British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West.
- BC's Aboriginal population (ages 15 and older) reported a 62.9% labour force participa-

tion rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, BC residents in total (ages 15 and older) reported a slightly higher 65.3% participation rate with a 59.6% employment rate and a significantly lower 8.5% unemployment rate. The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population was $13,242.

Of eight indicators of urban versus regional performance related to ***environment, health and society***, Regional BC outperforms the Vancouver CMA on three: low birth weight infants, personal and property crime rate and social condition (low income incidence). British Columbia's largest urban region – the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area – performs better than Regional BC on local air quality, life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality rates, employment insurance and income assistance. Among the findings:

- On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1995 and 2004. Similarly, it increased on average, by 3½ months per year in the Victoria CMA, by 2 months a year in Regional BC, by ¾ of a month per year in the Abbotsford CMA and by 3½ months a year in BC as a whole.
- Air quality, as measured by the annual mean concentration of PM_{10} particulates, improved in Vancouver, Langley, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Prince George between 1994 and 2000 by at least 6.8% (Vancouver) and by as much as 26.1% (Kelowna). Campbell River's air quality increased by 10.0% between 1998 and 2000.
- In 2003, the low income ratio in the Vancouver CMA was 17.0% (4.1 percentage points) lower than the city's 10 year average. The ratio in the Victoria CMA was 1.6% (0.3 percentage points) higher than its average and Regional BC's ratio was higher by 12.0% (1.9 percentage points).

Supplemental benchmarking using data from the five regional health authorities is included, featuring: cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, and low birth weight infants. The report also compares crime rates by Municipality and includes a special topic box benchmarking Aboriginal population and health versus the general population. Some key findings include:

- Over the period 1995 to 2004, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate of 13.4 deaths per 10,000 population. Except for the Interior Health Authority, the cancer mortality rate in 2004 was lower than in 1995 throughout the province. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 7.0% lower in 2004 than in 1995.
- The lowest 2003 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (15.4 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2003 than in 1994 all across BC.
- The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2004 rate of low weight births (5.9%) and the highest rate, on average between 1995 and 2004, at 5.4%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2004 (5.0%) and the lowest 1995 through 2004 average rate (4.6%). No strong trend in the incidence of low weight births is evident over the period 1995 through 2004.
- British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indians and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy and low birth weight infants. For example, life expectancy among the Status Indian population in BC in 2002 was 77.2 years – three and a half years shorter than BC's overall life expectancy of 80.8 years.

BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

COMPARING BC'S PERFORMANCE — REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

Fifth Annual BC Progress Board Benchmarking Report

Volume II – Internal Performance Review: Regional

December 15, 2005

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I. Benchmarking British Columbia's Regions

Introduction

This is the fifth annual benchmarking report of the BC Progress Board. Established in July 2001 and comprised of 18 British Columbians with a wide range of experience, the Progress Board has two broad mandates:

- To provide advice on whether and to what extent the province is improving its competitive position and quality of life by establishing an ongoing means to measure and benchmark British Columbia's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- To identify issues of importance to the province's future economic prosperity and advise the Premier on strategies, policies and actions necessary to increase the economic and social well-being of British Columbians.

The 2005 Reporting Framework

The BC Progress Board's Benchmarking Report for 2005 is split into two volumes to highlight BC's internal and external performance.

The first volume – External Performance Review – focusses on comparisons of BC's performance against other provinces, US States and OECD member nations.

The second volume looks at performance within British Columbia and is entitled the "Internal Performance Review". Readers familiar with the Progress Board's first four annual reports will recognize the comparisons among the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA, and Regional British Columbia. The main difference between this and the previous reports is the addition of data for the Abbotsford CMA, which became BC's third CMA based on the 2001 Census. Results for the newest CMA were not widely available until this year.

Supplemental comparisons based on BC's eight Development Regions and five Health Authorities are included. For reference, Appendix B includes maps depicting the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs as well as BC's Development Region and Health Authority boundaries.

Current Results – Internal Performance Review

Economy, Innovation and Education – Summary Findings

The Vancouver CMA outperforms Regional BC on most of the Economy, Innovation and Education indicators. The exceptions include retail sales (which is split fairly evenly based on population) and manufacturing shipments. The following table provides a basic overview of these indicators.

- British Columbia's employment rate increased by 0.9% (0.7 percentage points) between 2003 and 2004. Most of this improvement was focussed on the Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs. The Victoria CMA's employment rate grew by 2.1% (1.5 percentage points), the Abbotsford CMA's grew by 1.5% (1.1 percentage points), the Vancouver CMA's grew by 0.8% (0.6 percentage points) and Regional BC saw an increase of 0.9% (0.6 percentage points).

- Real per capita employment income grew by 7.1% between 1994 and 2003 in Regional BC. The Vancouver CMA saw growth of 11.1% while the Victoria CMA's growth was 14.2%. In 2003, real per capita employment income was $13,401 in Regional BC (including Abbotsford), $14,355 in the Victoria CMA and $15,263 in the Vancouver CMA.
- Half of all manufacturing shipments originate outside of Vancouver and Victoria. The proportion of shipments from these two cities fell between 1990 and 1999 but rebounded since 1999. In 2003, Vancouver was responsible for 47.8% of all shipments, Victoria for only 2.2%, Abbotsford for 3.7% and Regional BC for the remaining 50.0%.

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2004	% Pop. (15-64)	71.9	72.8	74.3	68.6	-
2. Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	15,263	14,355	n/a	13,401	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	7,105	2,069	n/a	10,135	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	8,556	n/a	n/a	9,752	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2004	Starts/1,000 Pop.	9.1	7.1	6.4	6.5	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	470	334	279	336	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2004	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	80.4	67.9	74.0	67.6	-
8. University Completion	2004	% Pop. (25-54)	29.0	23.3	12.2	12.9	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2004	% Employment	6.6	7.3	3.6	4.5	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Pop.	2004	Form./1,000 Pop.	7.7	5.2	4.5	3.1	-

- Real per capita retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA grew by 29.8% ($2,240) between 1995 and 2004. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year from 1996 through 1999 and again in 2003 and 2004; the areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1995, 1998 and 2003.
- Housing starts per thousand population have shown strong growth since 2000 (in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs) and 2001 (in Regional BC) but 2004 levels were still well below those seen in 1993, a peak year for the province as a whole.
- The value of real per capita non-residential building permits has been steady or falling for much of the last ten years. The 2004 values were 87.1 percent of 1995 values in the Vancouver CMA, 74.7 percent in the Victoria CMA and 72.7 percent in Regional BC.
- The Vancouver CMA has proportionately more high school graduates than Regional BC. In 2004, 80.4% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school compared to 67.6% in Regional BC, 67.9% in the Victoria CMA and 74.0 in the Abbotsford CMA. All regions in BC saw strong growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduated from high school over the period 1995-2004.

- The Vancouver CMA also has proportionally more residents with university credentials than Regional BC. The proportion of the population with a university education was similar in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and the proportion in Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA was similar; about half that of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.
- The Vancouver CMA has a larger fraction of its employment in natural and applied sciences and related occupations than does Regional BC. The Vancouver and Victoria CMAs had strong growth in this indicator between 1995 and 2004.
- Most of British Columbia's net new business formations occur in the Vancouver CMA. The number of net new business formations per thousand population increased in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in all regions, but Vancouver remained well below it's 1994 peak level.

Environment, Health and Society – Summary Findings

A review of available regional indicators for Environment, Health and Society shows that the Vancouver CMA typically performs better than Regional BC. However, the Vancouver CMA is not as dominant on this set of seven indicators as it is on measures of economy, innovation and education; the split is more even with Regional BC outperforming the Vancouver CMA on three indicators (low birth weight infants, crime rates, and low income incidence).

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Environment, Health and Society

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2004	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	5.8	5.6	N/A	7.4	-
12. Cancer Mortality	2004	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.1	5.9	5.5	5.5	-
13. Life Expectancy at Birth	2004	Years	81.7	81.3	80.7	79.7	-
14. Low Birth Weight Rate	2004	percent of Live Births	5.9	5.4	6.4	5.2	+
15. Personal and Property Crime	2004	Incidents per 100 Pop.	8.3	6.7	8.9	7.7	+
16. Social Condition	2003	% of Families	19.8	19.9	N/A	17.5	+
17. Employment Insurance	2004	% of Pop. (15-64)	2.8	2.6	4.4	4.1	-
18. Income Assistance	2004	% of Pop. (0-64)	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.6	-

Note: Wastewater treatment has been dropped due to unavailability of data.

- Concentrations of particulate matter are generally higher outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Lower Fraser Valley. Between 1994 and 2000 air quality improved (using the PM_{10} measure) in the six cities we review. Results are mixed between 2001 and 2003 based on the $PM_{2.5}$ measure.
- Cancer mortality in the Vancouver CMA is lower than in Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA, which in turn, is lower than in the Victoria CMA. The provincial rate in 2004 was 8.9 percent below the 1995 rate.
- Life expectancy at birth is marginally higher in the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) than in Regional BC. On average, life expectancy at birth increased by

about 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1995 and 2004. Similarly, it increased on average, by 2½ months per year in the Victoria CMA, by 2 months a year in Regional BC, by less than a month per year in the Abbotsford CMA and by more than 3 months a year in BC as a whole.

- The Lower Mainland typically has a higher incidence of low birth weight infants than those seen in Regional BC and the Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs. The low birth weight ratio has been fairly volatile in all four regions but the average values for the three regions for the period 1995 through 2004 are quite close. The smallest difference being 2.3% between Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA and the largest difference being 6.6% between the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.
- Personal and property crime rates were higher in the Vancouver CMA than in Regional BC over the 1990s and into the new century. Crime rates are lower in 2004 than in 1995 in all regions except the Abbotsford CMA. Most regions saw crime rate increases in 2001, 2002 and 2003 followed by a decrease in 2004.
- On average, Vancouver has a higher incidence of people living below the low income cut-off than the Victoria CMA or Regional BC. The low income cut-off rate fell between 1994 and 2003 in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs but increased in Regional BC.
- All regions in British Columbia had increases in the proportion of population in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits between the trough of 2000 and 2001 and between 2001 and 2002. Between 2002 and 2003, Vancouver and Regional BC had decreases in the proportion and Victoria and Abbotsford had increases. All regions had decreases between 2003 and 2004.
- The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits peaked in 1995 at 9.3% in the Vancouver CMA, 9.8% in the Victoria CMA, 10.8% in the Abbotsford CMA and 11.9% in Regional BC. Since 1995, the number of beneficiaries as a percent of the population (aged 0-64) has fallen by 82.9% in the Victoria CMA, 82.2% in the Abbotsford CMA, 82.2% in the Vancouver CMA and 77.9% in Regional BC.

Special Topics – Summary Findings

Development Region Results

- ***Employment Rate***

  The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2004 and for the 1995 through 2004 average. Its average employment rate was 4.8 percentage points (7.6%) higher than that in 2nd ranked North Coast & Nechako. The Thompson – Okanagan had the lowest employment rate from 1995 through 2004 with an average rate of 55.7%, 13.1 percentage points (23.5%) lower than in the Northeast.

- ***Taxfilers' Employment Income***
  The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1994 and 2003. Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1994 and 2003. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 7.2%. The increases range from 1.6% in the Cariboo Development Region to 13.2% in the Northeast.
- ***Manufacturing Shipments***
  The Cariboo and Nechako development regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,739 and $18,591, respectively, and the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast development region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,547 and for 1999-2003 at $5,092.

Health Authority Results

- ***Cancer Mortality***
  Over the period 1995 to 2004, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate among the Health Authorities with a rate of 13.4 deaths per 10,000 population. The cancer mortality rate in 2004 was lower than in 1995 in every region except the Interior Health Authority which shows an 8.5 percent increase. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 7.0% lower in 2004 than in 1995.
- ***Cardiovascular Disease***
  The lowest 2003 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (15.4 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2003 than in 1994 all across BC.
- ***Low Weight Births***
  The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2004 rate of low weight births (5.9%) and the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1995 and 2004, at 5.4%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2004 (5.0%) and the lowest 1995 through 2004 average rate (4.6%). The 2004 rate of low weight births was above the 1995 rate in all the Health Authorities.

Special Topics Related to Economy, Innovation and Education

- ***Secondary School Completion***
  In 2004/05, BC had a completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students. British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West.
- ***Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education***
  Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada have suffered from an economic gap with the broader population, experiencing higher levels of unemployment and lower incomes. For example, in 2001, the median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a

median income of $13,242. Educational achievement and enrollment rates have also lagged those of non-Aboriginal students. While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it has begun to narrow.

Special Topics Related to Environment, Health and Society

- ***Crime Rate by Municipality***
  Smithers saw the largest increase in its crime rate with a 62.2% increase from 181 incidents in 1994 per 1,000 population to 294 in 2003. In contrast, Sidney saw its crime rate drop by 51.1% from 111 incidents per 1,000 population in 1994 to 54 in 2003. Forty-one of the sixty-four municipalities with full data had lower crime rates in 2003 than in 1994.

- ***Status Indian Health and Population***
  British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indian and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight infants. For example, life expectancy among the Status Indian population in BC in 2002 was 77.2 years – three and a half years shorter than BC's overall life expectancy of 80.8 years.

Outline of the Remainder of Volume II

The remainder of this volume is divided into three chapters and a number of appendices.

Chapter II is a special topic report on the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic.

Chapter III reports the economic benchmarks, focusing on measures of growth, prosperity, innovation and education.

Chapter IV reports the environment, health and society benchmarks.

Appendix A lists the Board members, Staff and Advisory Group.

Appendix B provides a discussion of Methodology.

Appendix C is a Glossary of Terms.

Appendix D consists of the data analysed in this Volume.

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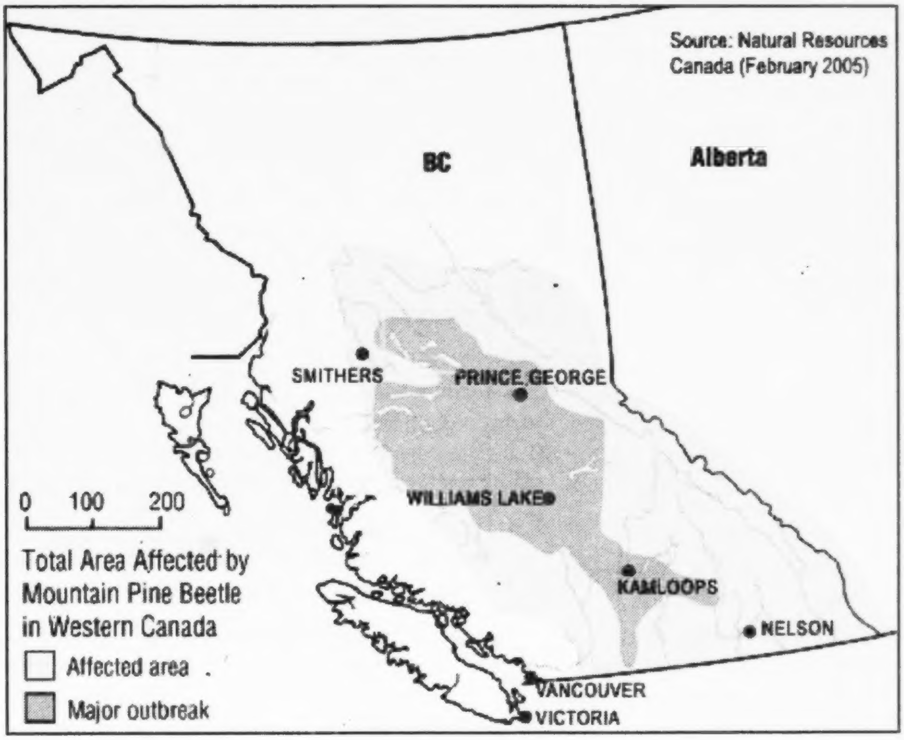
II. Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic: A Major Challenge for BC

Background: The Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic Defined

The mountain pine beetle exists in lodgepole pine stands throughout western North America, and epidemics have been a regular occurrence in BC's history. The beetles infect mature (80 years or older) lodgepole pine trees by laying eggs under their bark in late summer to early fall, which then hatch into legless larvae. Over the winter the beetles burrow into the tree, depositing a blue fungus into the sapwood that both prevents the tree from repelling the beetle, and shuts off the flow of water and nutrients. An infested tree will be killed within a few weeks of an initial successful attack, although it will not show until the following summer when tree branches turn red due to lack of nutrients and hydration.



Source: Natural Resources Canada (February 2005)

The largest previous recorded outbreak was between 1930 to 1936 in the Chilcotin Plateau, with a peak affected area of 650,000 hectares (ha). The current epidemic was first identified in 1993 in the central coast area of the Province; it now reaches from Fort St. James in the north and Manning Park to the south, to Houston to the west and Cranbrook to the east (as outlined in the map on this page), or more than 10 times the size of the Chilcotin epidemic. Two conditions set the stage for the current epidemic in BC. First, BC's Central and Southern Interior landscape has an abundance of susceptible trees; the province has three times the amount of mature lodgepole pine that it did 90 years ago due, in part, to forest fire fighting. As well, lodgepole pine makes up 25 to 30 percent of the provincial timber harvesting land base, and 50 percent of the Central Interior harvesting base. Second, sustained warm weather – meaning both hot and dry summers and mild winters – has helped the beetle to flourish. Because of these combined factors, a winter of approximately -40°C or a sudden cold snap in early fall or late spring with -25°C temperatures is needed to get rid of the beetle.

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Central Interior reached record setting proportions in 2004 and 2005. The area affected was more than 7.0 million ha at the end of 2004, almost half of the 14.9 million ha[1] of total lodgepole pine stands in British Columbia. Estimates suggest that the epidemic will extend to 10 million ha by the end of 2005, and will reach its peak in 2006, killing 80 percent of BC's lodgepole pine in its wake. While early government and industry efforts were targeted at controlling the infestation, efforts have now shifted to tapping all possible economic gains from beetle-killed wood.

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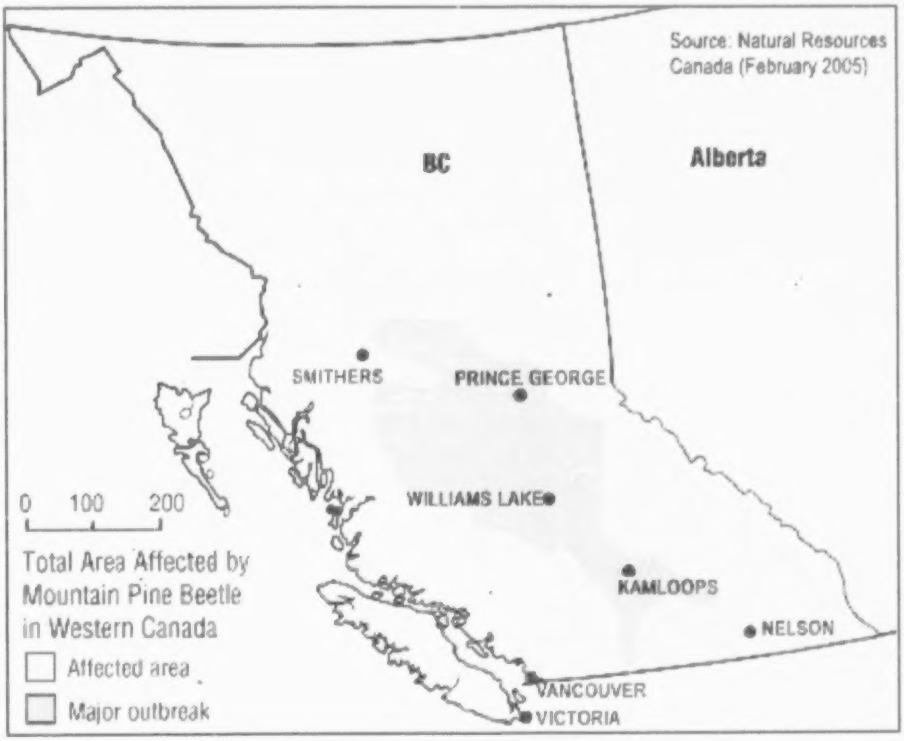

Source: Natural Resources Canada (February 2005)

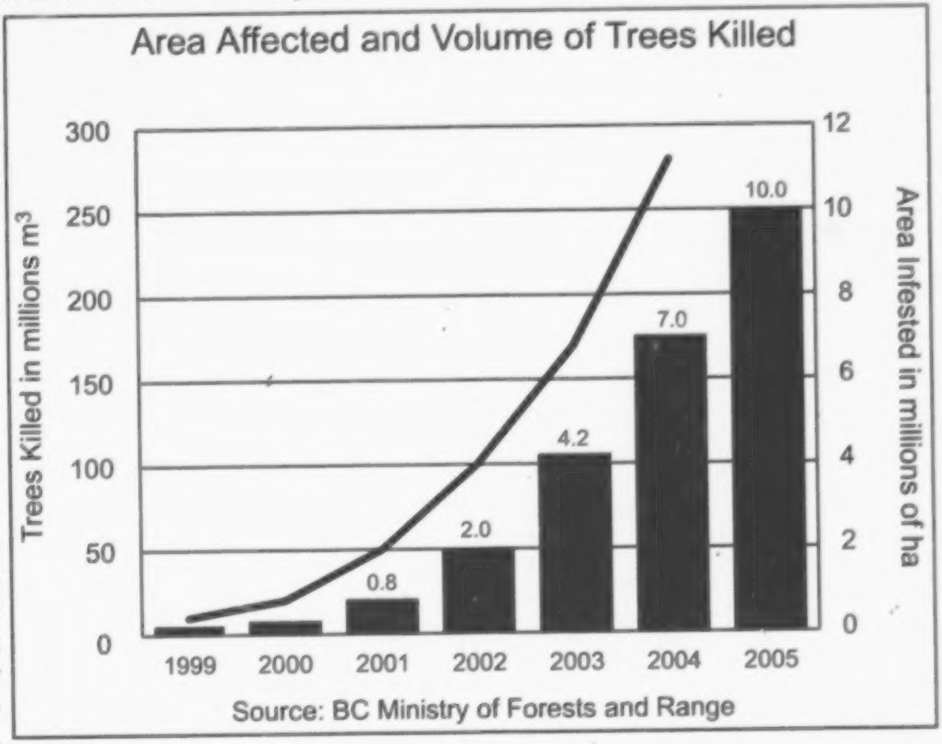
Total Area Affected by Mountain Pine Beetle in Western Canada

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Central Interior reached record setting proportions in 2004 and 2005. The area affected was more than 7.0 million ha at the end of 2004, almost half of the 14.9 million ha[1] of total lodgepole pine stands in British Columbia. Estimates suggest that the epidemic will extend to 10 million ha by the end of 2005, and will reach its peak in 2006, killing 80 percent of BC's lodgepole pine in its wake. While early government and industry efforts were targeted at controlling the infestation, efforts have now shifted to tapping all possible economic gains from beetle-killed wood.

Ecological bust, Economic boom

The Provincial Government has increased the amount of Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) in the four most affected Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) – Prince George, Quesnel, the Lakes and Merritt – by 78 percent between 1996 and 2004/05. On November 1, 2005, the AACs for the Cranbrook and Invermere TSAs were increased by four and three percent respectively. The AAC for the Okanagan TSA will increase 27 percent on January 1, 2006.

The goal of increasing the allowable cuts in these areas is to ensure the maximum amount of feasibly harvested lodgepole pine killed by the mountain pine beetle is cut while the wood is still fully valued and structurally sound[2], both in hopes of salvaging as much economic value as possible from infested wood, and to prevent heightened risk of forest fires and consequent further timber losses from dried out, dead pine lining the forest.



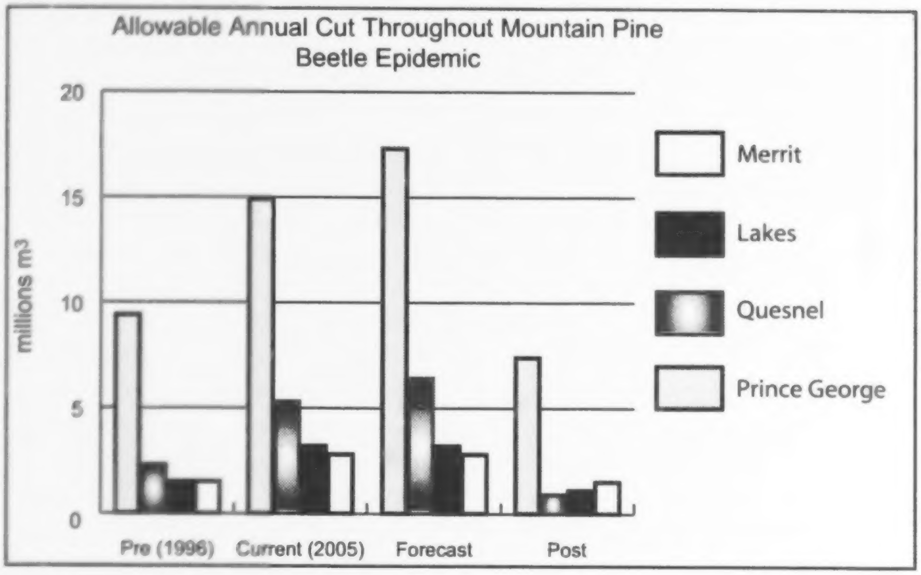
Area Affected and Volume of Trees Killed

Source: BC Ministry of Forests and Range

Substantially increasing AACs translates into a concomitant increase in the supply of pine, that could flood existing softwood lumber markets if new products and markets aren't developed[3], and cause a subsequent decrease in government revenues, and related incomes and profits. As well, beetle-attacked pine has a shortened shelf life (i.e. the amount of time after death that it can be used for a particular product) due to the drying affects of infestation. Traditional markets for pine include dimensional lumber (for which the shelf life is comparably short), and pulp. An expanding market for beetle pine is oriented strand board (OSB), a structural panel engineered for use in construction, packaging/crating, furniture and shelving. OSB production marginally exceeded plywood production by 2000, and was expected to grow to 60% of the structural panel market share by 2004.

An alternative opportunity for beetle-killed wood is energy. As discussed in the BC Progress Board's recent report, Strategic Imperatives for BC's Energy Future, beetle-infested wood can potentially be used to make wood pellets for use in household wood stoves or for industrial power generation as a green fuel; there is a substantial market for wood pellets as biofuel for European thermal power plants. Alternatively, beetle pine wood pellets could also be used to create liquid fuels such as ethanol, bio-diesel and bio-oil for use in vehicles and diesel-electric generators here in BC.

Yet another use is speciality 'Blue-Stained' finished products. Small manufacturers in the Quesnel area have started to promote locally manufactured blue-stain products they call 'Denim Pine,' highlighting the uniqueness,


Allowable Annual Cut Throughout Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic

character and environmental benefits of blue-stain furniture, cabinets, flooring, panelling and shelving products. Other small specialty market manufacturers are starting to market blue-stained wood products as 'eco-salvaged' and 'naturally stained'. However, demand is not yet strong enough for large-scale manufacturing of blue-stained wood. Further research needs to be done to identify the markets for such products. A possible mainstream use for beetle-stained pine is finished wood products that use stain to mask the blue discoloration. While the development of new markets for beetle pine will bring short-term economic benefits, including employment opportunities and revenues for local and provincial coffers, over the medium-term there will also likely be employment and revenue losses.

The intensity and duration of a prospective economic slowdown in the future will depend on government and private actions to diversify affected economies into other areas. Among other things, this could include exploring the potential for onshore natural gas development in the Nechako and Bowser basins and expanding the tourism and recreation sectors. At the same time, forest management strategies that focus on long-term recovery, future revenues, and species diversity will be required. The after-effects of the epidemic will also require widespread reforestation and environmental rehabilitation in logged areas.

Planning for the Future

Looking forward, all orders of government will need to focus on policies that will maximize the economic benefits of increased cut allowances in the short-term, while planning for and mitigating against the predicted economic downturn in the medium-term. Specifically:

- Forest Research Opportunities BC predicts $4 billion to $14 billion will be lost in stumpage revenues to the Province over the course of the epidemic. In order to combat this, governments and private interests should be aware of this **impending revenue decrease** and increase their focus on development of other industries – oil and gas in the Bowser and Nechako Basins, for example – that could positively impact future revenues.
- BC, Alberta and the federal government should continue and heighten **containment** strategies along the Rockies. Winters in the Peace River area, historically considered a line of natural defence, have not been as cold as needed to stop the beetle. BC Government officials predict that the pine beetle will be as "successful" as it has been in the BC's lodgepole pine in the jack pine of Alberta and beyond if it cannot be contained in the Peace, meaning this could potentially become a national (and possibly even continent-wide) epidemic.
- **Employment** levels in affected areas will decline without intervention. For example, a Canadian Forest

Services report estimated a 4.8% drop in employment in the Prince George TSA and similarly a 2.5% drop in the Nadina Forest District area in the medium term (between now and 10 to 15 years from now) as the AACs for those areas decline. However, investing in economic diversification now – in oil and gas, recreation, and tourism development – could offset these predicted future employment declines.

- In the shorter term, **increased supply** has the potential to flood traditional pine markets. Researching, developing and efficiently expanding new markets for the beetle-stained pine – wood pellets and liquid fuels for 'green' energy both abroad and in BC, and specialty 'blue-stained' and 'beetle-enhanced' finished products, and the expansion of oriented strand board production – should be encouraged in the private sector through government policies and resource allocation. A current example is the Ministry of Forests and Range awarding forest licenses to firms that commit to developing facilities that produce something other than dimensional softwood lumber in affected areas.
- Federal and provincial government investments in **reforestation** should be focused on minimizing declines in future timber supply. This can be achieved through: accelerating the growth of current trees through silviculture techniques; planting of fast-growing species in identified productive sites; prioritizing reforestation based on evaluations of expected site productivity levels; and, managing species and age diversity to prevent future infestation.

Notes:

1 Figure is for total lodgepole pine-leading stands in BC; it includes lodgepole pine of all ages.

2 Studies comparing beetle-infested and non-beetle infested pine from the same location found there to be no difference in strength properties or adhesiveness to stain, or glue.

3 As well, a significant increase in the supply of BC softwood lumber exports could possibly intensify current softwood lumber trade issues with the United States.

Sources: Eng, et al. (April 2005), Provincial-Level Projection of the Current Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak: An Overview of the Model (BCMPB v2) and Results of Year 2 of the Project, Canadian Forest Service and the BC Forest Service; Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (see http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca); BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Mountain Pine Beetles in British Columbia, (see: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/); BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, Merritt TSA (July 2005), Lakes TSA (October 2004), Prince George TSA (October 2004), Okanagan TSA (December 2005) and Quesnel TSA (October 2004); Patriquin, et al. (2005), Regional Economic Implications of the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation in the Northern Interior Forest Region of British Columbia, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada; Government of British Columbia (April 2005), BC's Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan 2005-2010; McGarrity and Hoberg (April 2005), The Beetle Challenge: An Overview of the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and its Implications, UBC Faculty of Forestry; Forintek Canada Corp. (July 2003), Properties of Lumber with Beetle-Transmitted Bluestain; Zaturecky and Chiu (2005), Alternative wood products from blue-stained mountain pine beetle lumber: non-structural laminated products, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada; Structural Board Association, OSB Fast Facts; Alan Potter (2005), Mountain Pine Beetle Killed Wood: Value Recovery in a Limited Timeframe.

III. Economy, Innovation and Education

Regional Performance Indicators	
1.	Jobs: Employment Rate
2.	Taxfilers' Employment Income
3.	Manufacturing Shipments
4.	Retail Sales
5.	Housing Starts - Dwelling Units
6.	Non-Residential Building Permits
7.	Secondary School Graduates
8.	University Completion
9.	Scientists and Engineers Employed
10.	Net New Business Formation

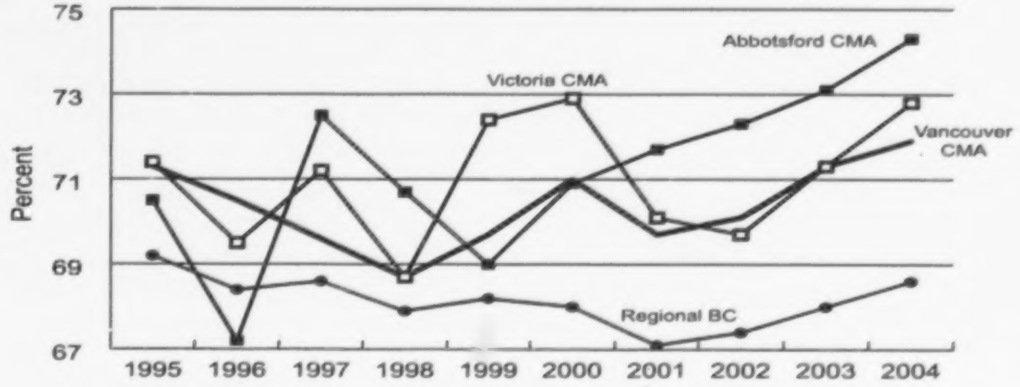
Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2004	% Pop. (15-64)	71.9	72.8	74.3	68.6	-
2. Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	15,263	14,355	n/a	13,401	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	7,105	2,069	n/a	10,135	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	8,556	n/a	n/a	9,752	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2004	Starts/1,000 Pop.	9.1	7.1	6.4	6.5	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	470	334	279	336	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2004	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	80.4	67.9	74.0	67.6	-
8. University Completion	2004	% Pop. (25-54)	29.0	23.3	12.2	12.9	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2004	% Employment	6.6	7.3	3.6	4.5	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Pop.	2004	Form./1,000 Pop.	7.7	5.2	4.5	3.1	-

Jobs: Employment Rate

Employment Rate (Ages 15 - 64), Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Why it's Important

The employment rate is an effective measure of labour utilization. High labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

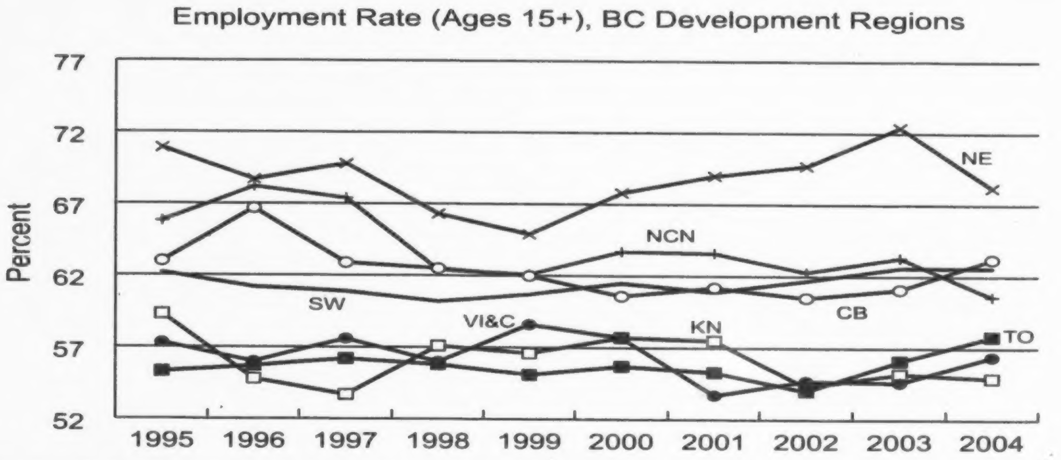
Analysis

British Columbia's employment rate increased by 0.9% (0.7 percentage points) between 2003 and 2004. The Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Regional BC all saw improvement. The Victoria CMA's employment rate grew by 2.1% (1.5 percentage points), the Abbotsford CMA's by 1.5% (1.1 percentage points), the Vancouver CMA's by 0.8% (0.6 percentage points) and Regional BC saw an increase of 0.9% (0.6 percentage points).

The employment rate in the Vancouver CMA increased by 0.6 percentage points (0.8%) from 71.3 in 1995 to 71.9 in 2004. The employment rate in the Victoria CMA increased by 1.4 percentage points (2.0%) from 71.4 in 1995 to 72.8 in 2004. The Abbotsford CMA saw the largest increase (3.8 percentage points; 5.4%) from 70.5 in 1995 to 74.3 in 2004. The employment rate for Regional BC fell by 0.6 percentage points (0.9%) from 69.2 in 1995 to 68.6 in 2004. Overall, BC's employment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points (0.5%) from 70.5 in 1995 to 70.9 in 2004.

In the Vancouver CMA in 2004, 71.9 percent of the people aged 15-64 were employed. This was 1.3% lower than the ratio of 72.8 in the Victoria CMA, 3.2% lower than the Abbotsford ratio of 74.3 and 4.7% higher than the ratio of 68.6 in Regional BC.

Jobs: Employment Rate



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Employment Rate (Ages 15+) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average	1995 - 2004 Minimum	1995 - 2004 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	6	56.3	5	53.7	58.6
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	3	61.5	4	60.2	62.6
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	5	55.7	7	54.0	57.8
Kootenay	KN	7	56.1	6	53.7	59.3
Cariboo	CB	2	62.4	3	60.5	66.7
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	4	63.9	2	60.6	68.2
Northeast	NE	1	68.8	1	64.9	72.4
British Columbia			59.9		59.0	60.8

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2004 and for the 1995 through 2004 average. Its average employment rate was 4.8 percentage points (7.6%) higher than that in 2nd ranked North Coast & Nechako.

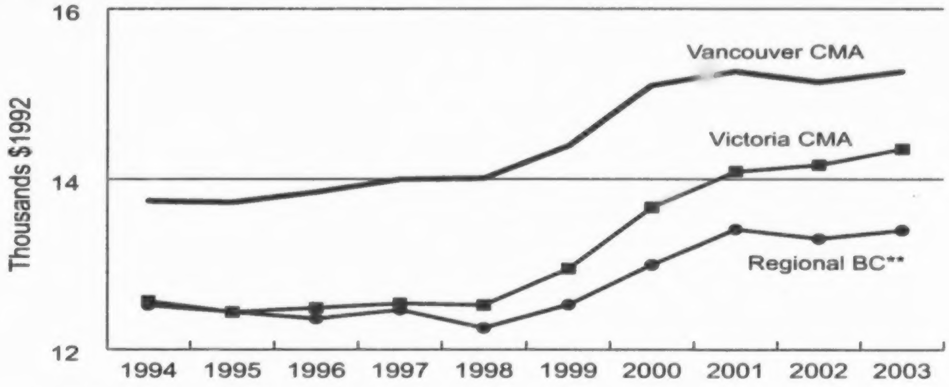
Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the Development Regions was 53.7% for Vancouver Island-Coast in 2001 and the Kootenay Development Region in 1997. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 2003 value of 72.4%.

The Thompson – Okanagan had the lowest employment rate from 1995 through 2004 with an average rate of 55.7%, 13.1 percentage points (23.5%) lower than in the Northeast.

Notes: The North Coast and Nechako DRs are combined in the Labour Force Survey, the source for these data. The population group used in this comparison differs from other Progress Board comparisons because these data are not readily available by Development Region.

Taxfilers' Employment Income ($1992)

Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, Vancouver Victoria* and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the income earned by British Columbians from employment and self-employment as reported to the Canada Revenue Agency on tax returns. For tax purposes, employment/self-employment includes wages, salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, commissions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Why it's Important

This indicator is a measure of economic activity and individual prosperity.

Analysis (Per Capita Employment Income)

Real per capita employment income grew by 7.1% between 1994 and 2003 in Regional BC. The Vancouver CMA saw growth of 11.1% while the Victoria CMA's growth was 14.2%. In 2003, real per capita employment income was $13,401 in Regional BC (including Abbotsford), $14,355 in the Victoria CMA and $15,263 in the Vancouver CMA. The Victoria CMA's average annual growth in real per capita employment income between 1994 and 2003 was 1.3%; the Vancouver CMA's was 0.9% and Regional BC's (including Abbotsford) was 0.6%.

Analysis (Total Employment Income)

In 1994, real employment income of taxfilers was $24.7 billion in the Vancouver CMA, $3.9 billion in the Victoria CMA and $18.0 billion in Regional BC (including Abbotsford) for a provincial total $46.6 billion. By 2003, real employment income had grown to $32.2 billion in the Vancouver CMA, $4.7 billion in the Victoria CMA, and $20.7 billion in Regional BC (including Abbotsford) for a provincial total of $57.7 billion.

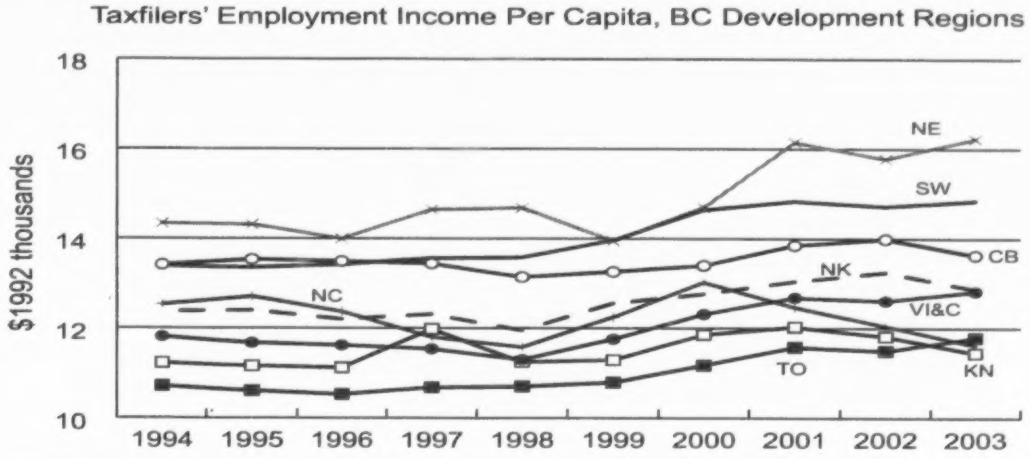
A Note on the Abbotsford CMA

Data for the Abbotsford CMA are available for 2001 onwards but have been included with Regional BC in this report. When a longer time series allows a more complete analysis we will show Abbotsford separately. Data for the Abbotsford CMA are included in the appendix tables however.

Notes: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District less the Gulf Islands for this indicator. **Includes the Abbotsford CMA. The data for this indicator were obtained from the Canada Revenue Agency for previous reports. The data now come from Statistics Canada's Small Area & Administrative Data Division (SAADD). The two sets are identical except that SAADD offers an additional two years of data.

Performance Indicator 2 Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Taxfilers' Employment Income ($1992)


Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, BC Development Regions

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2003 Rank	1994 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1994 - 2003 Average	1994 - 2003 Minimum	1994 - 2003 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	5	12,016	6	11,301	12,824
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	2	14,029	2	13,352	14,844
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	6	11,010	8	10,532	11,793
Kootenay	KN	8	11,521	7	11,125	12,031
Cariboo	CB	3	13,516	3	13,142	13,991
North Coast	NC	7	12,243	5	11,580	13,028
Nechako	NK	4	12,574	4	11,955	13,249
Northeast	NE	1	14,875	1	13,947	16,226
British Columbia			13,157		10,532	16,226

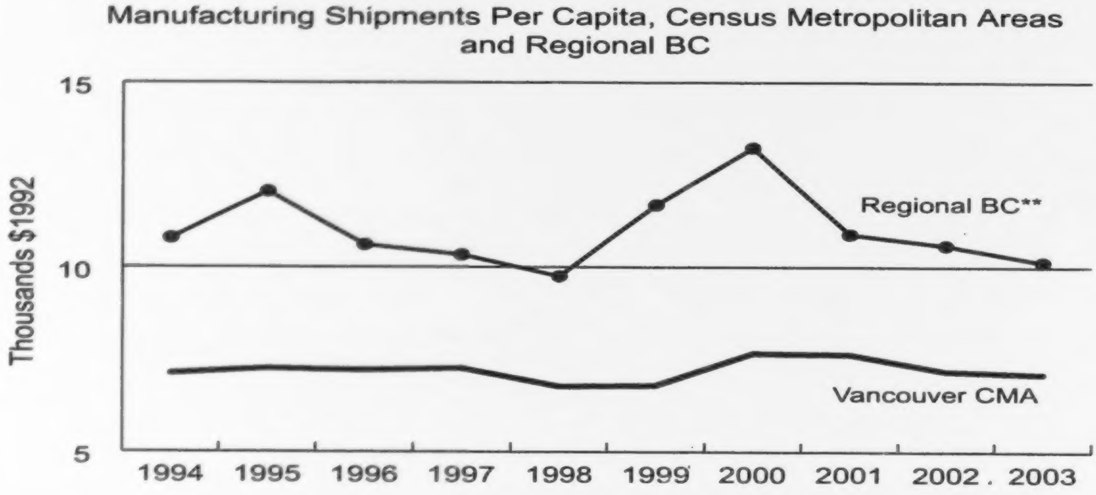
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. The Northeast was first in 2003 with real per capita income of $16,226; the Lower Mainland-Southwest Development Region was second with real per capita income of $14,844. The Northeast and Lower Mainland Development Regions held the same respective positions for the average real per capita income between 1994 and 2003 at $14,875 and $14,029.

Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1994 and 2003. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 7.2%. The increases range from 1.6% in the Cariboo Development Region to 13.2% in the Northeast.

Note: The data for this indicator were obtained from the Canada Revenue Agency for previous reports. The data now come from Statistics Canada's Small Area & Administrative Data Division (SAADD). The two sets are identical except that SAADD offers an additional two years of data.

Manufacturing Shipments



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator is a measure of manufacturing activity per capita in thousands of 1992 dollars. The major sources of BC's manufacturing shipments are: wood products, paper products, food and fabricated metal & machinery. Wood products is the largest at 30.9% of total manufacturing shipments, followed by paper products at 13.9%, food manufacturing at 11.9% and fabricated metal products and machinery manufacturing at a combined 9.8%. Taken together, these industries were responsible for 66.5% of BC manufacturing shipments in 2004.***

Why it's Important

This indicator plays a vital role in measuring an area's overall economic activity.

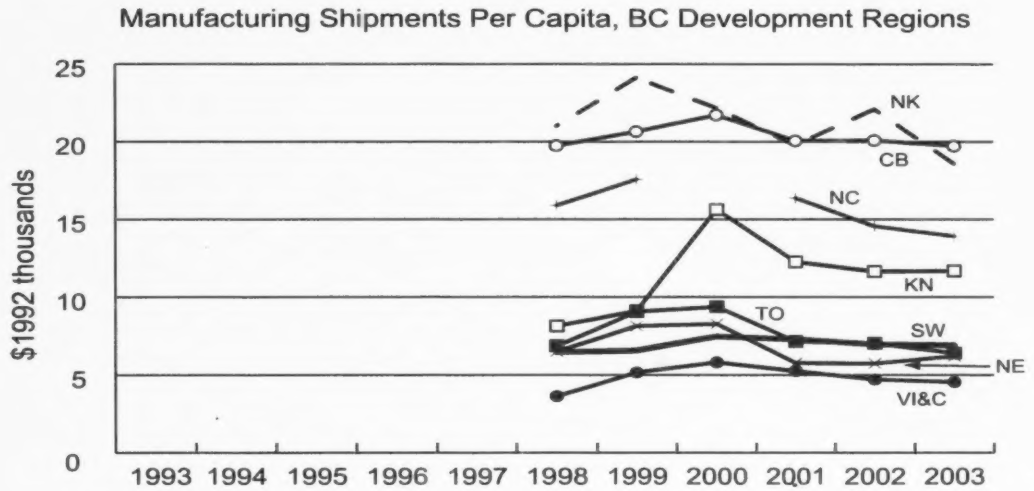
Analysis (Per Capita Employment Income)

Manufacturing shipments remained an important part of overall provincial GDP throughout the 1990s and into the current decade. Manufacturing shipments were equal to 29.1% of BC's GDP, on average, between 1990 and 2003, ranging from a low of 25.9% in 2003 to a high of 32.4% in 1995. Real manufacturing shipments were $26.9 billion in 1990 and $31.4 billion in 2003.

Real manufacturing shipments per capita were $7,557 in BC in 2003. Regional BC's real manufacturing shipments per capita were $10,135 in 2003, compared to $7,105 in the Vancouver CMA and $2,069 in the Victoria CMA. Data for the Abbotsford CMA are available from 2002 onwards; Abbotsford has been included with Regional BC because of the short time series available. If the Abbotsford CMA were separated out it would show real manufacturing shipments per capita of $7,177 in 2003, close to the values for the Vancouver CMA and well below that for Regional BC.

Notes: *Victoria's shipments generally represent less than 2.0% of the total and have been left off this figure. **Includes the Abbotsford CMA. ***BC Stats, British Columbia Manufacturing Shipments, 1997-2004, September 14, 2005.

Manufacturing Shipments ($1992)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

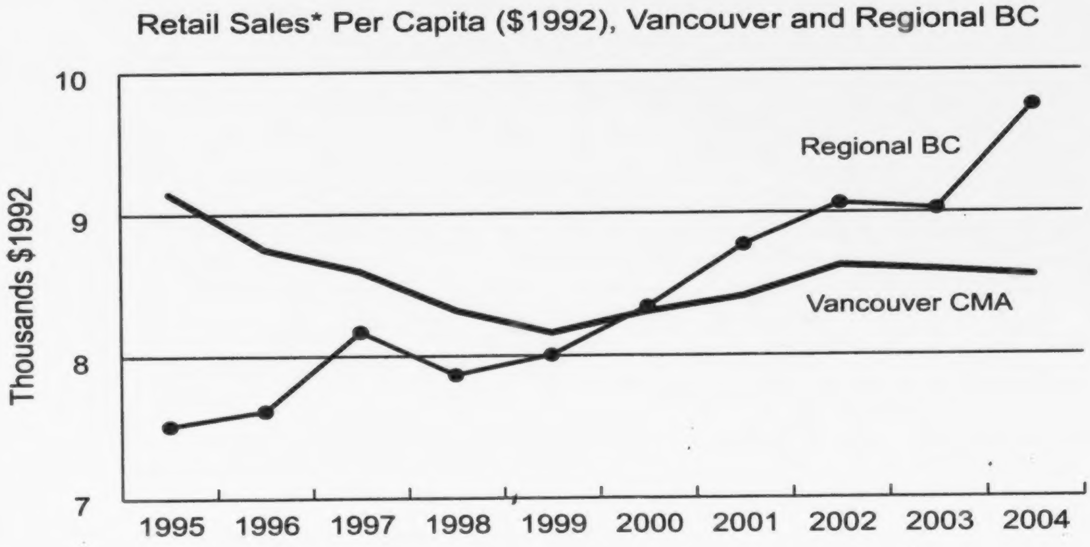
Development Region	Abbr.	2003 Rank	1999 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2003 Average	1999 - 2003 Minimum	1999 - 2003 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	8	5,092	8	4,547	5,807
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	5	7,040	6	6,567	7,474
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	6	7,805	5	6,399	9,380
Kootenay	KN	4	12,077	4	9,123	15,640
Cariboo	CB	1	20,460	2	19,739	21,729
North Coast	NC	3	15,616	3	13,921	17,581
Nechako	NK	2	21,359	1	18,591	24,139
Northeast	NE	7	6,825	7	5,743	8,277
British Columbia			8,095		4,547	24,139

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Cariboo and Nechako development regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,739 and $18,591, respectively, and the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast development region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,547 and for 1999-2003 at $5,092.

Note: The survey used to collect these data was expanded to include all manufacturing units effective 2000; this results in a break in the above series. Statistics Canada notes that the additional establishments represent less than 5% of total revenue from the sale of manufactured goods.

Retail Sales



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures sales at retail outlets. Direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machine sales and door-to-door printed materials sold by a publisher directly are excluded; sales taxes and non-operating revenue are also excluded.

Why it's Important

Retail sales constitute a significant proportion of GDP and are used as a measure of economic performance. Retail trade is one of BC's largest sources of employment. In 2004, 253,600 people were employed in BC's retail trade.**

Analysis (Real Per Capita Retail Sales)

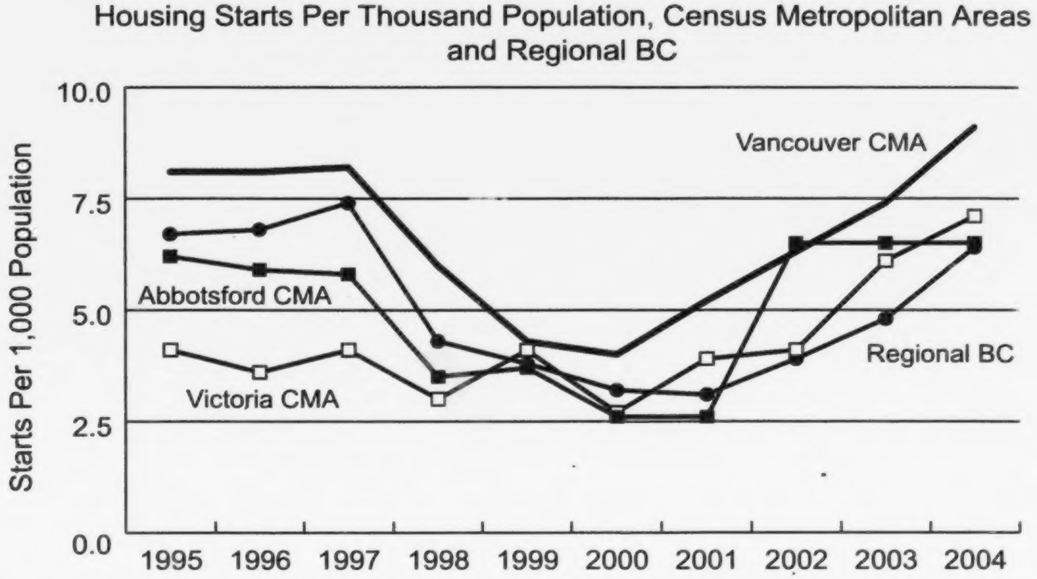
Real per capita retail sales were $8,556 in the Vancouver CMA and $9,752 in the Victoria CMA, Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC combined* in 2004. Real per capita retail sales in the Vancouver CMA were 6.5% ($591) lower in 2004 than in 1995, which was a peak year. Real per capita retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA grew by 29.8% ($2,240) between 1995 and 2004. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year between 1996 and 1999 and again in 2003 and 2004; areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1995, 1998 and 2003.

Analysis (Total Retail Sales)

Between 1995 and 2004, average annual growth in real retail sales was stronger in Regional BC (3.5%) than in the Vancouver CMA (1.7%) and sales outside of the Vancouver CMA did not stagnate between 1995 and 1999. Real retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA were lower in 1998 ($15.7 billion) than in 1997 ($16.3 billion); other than this decrease they grew by an average of 4.3%, year over year, between 1995 and 2004.

Note: *Separate retail sales data are not available for Victoria or Abbotsford. **Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, prepared by BC Stats.

Housing Starts - Dwelling Units



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Description

This indicator measures the number of dwelling units started and the number of permits issued for construction. It represents the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when a footing is installed. All new units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Less populated areas are sampled and an estimate is included.

Why it's Important

Housing starts are considered a good leading indicator for home sales and a major indicator of economic activity and consumer confidence. Housing construction is an important generator of employment. One estimate suggests that each housing start creates 2.8 person-years of employment.*

Analysis (Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population)

Housing starts per 1,000 population in 2004 were up 98% in Regional BC, 127% in the Vancouver CMA, 151% in the Abbotsford CMA and 164% in the Victoria CMA over their level in 2000. Unfortunately, 2000 was a trough year for the CMAs while 2001 was a trough for Regional BC. Housing starts peaked in the early 1990s in BC. The levels of per capita housing starts seen in 2004 were 20% lower than the 1990 peak in the Victoria CMA, 25% lower than the 1993 peak in the Vancouver CMA, 52% lower than the 1992 peak in Regional BC, and 60% lower than the 1990 peak in the Abbotsford CMA.

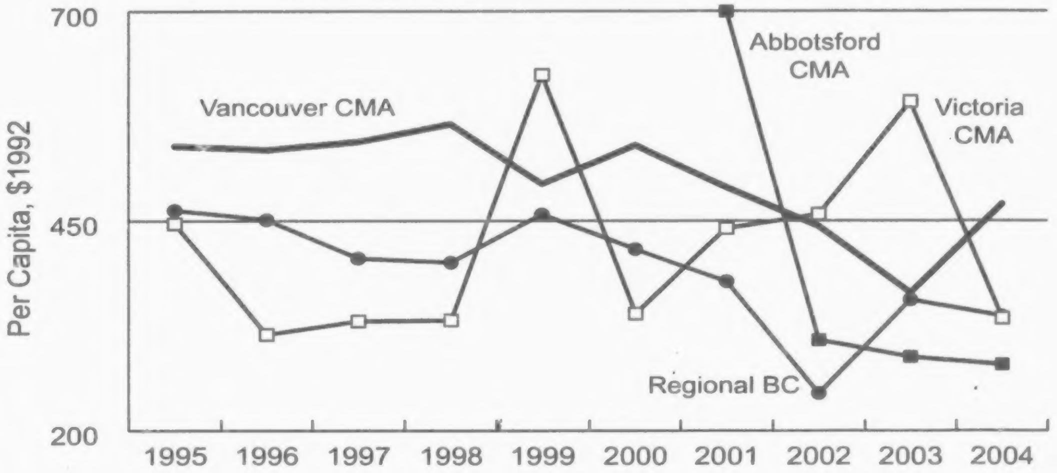
Analysis (Total Housing Starts)

Housing starts fell sharply in the 1990s. Housing starts in BC peaked at 42,807 in 1993 and fell to a low of 14,418 in 2000. Annual housing starts in BC were 120% higher in 2004 than in 2000.

Note: *CMHC, The Current Performance of the Housing Industry in Canada, 1999.

Non-Residential Building Permits

Non-Residential Building Permits Per Capita ($1992), Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Description

This indicator measures the dollar value of permits issued by municipalities and regional districts for non-residential buildings. It includes industrial, commercial and institutional construction, as well as new government buildings. Also included are alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Why it's Important

The value of non-residential building permits issued is an important measure of a jurisdiction's economic activity and attractiveness to investors.

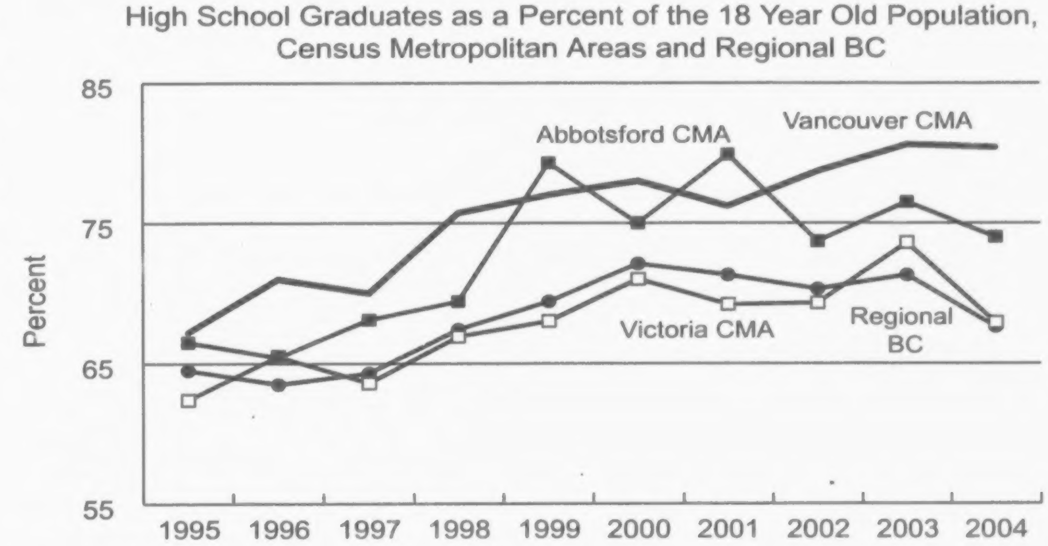
Analysis (Real Per Capita Non-Residential Building Permits)

The value of real per capita non-residential building permits has been steady or falling for much of the last ten years. It was 27.3% lower in 2004 than in 1995 in Regional BC, 12.9% lower in the Vancouver CMA and, 25.3% lower in the Victoria CMA. The Victoria CMA had average annual growth of 5.7% between 1995 and 2004 in the value of real per capita non-residential building permits. Victoria was the only region to have positive growth. The per capita value fell by 1.1%, on average in Regional BC, while the Vancouver CMA showed no net change.

Analysis (Total Non-Residential Building Permits)

The inflation adjusted value of non-residential building permits in 2004 in the Vancouver CMA was 0.2% ($1.9 million) higher than the value of permits in 1995. The real value of permits was 22.7% ($154.5 million) lower in 2004 in Regional BC than in 1995 and was 21.3% ($29.9 million) lower in the Victoria CMA.

Secondary School Graduates



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Education.

Description

This indicator represents the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the year noted including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams. It is expressed as a percentage of the 18 year old population on July 1st of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

Why it's Important

Levels of education tend to correlate strongly with future personal prosperity and well-being. With the "knowledge" content of most jobs steadily increasing, high school graduation is deemed essential as a base qualification for other "higher learning".

Analysis

In 2004, 80.4% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school. This was higher than the rates in the Abbotsford CMA (74.0%), the Victoria CMA (67.9%) and Regional BC (67.6%).

All regions in BC have seen growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduate from high school. Between 1995 and 2004, the proportion increased by 5.5 percentage points (8.8%) in the Victoria CMA, 13.2 percentage points (19.7%) in the Vancouver CMA, by 7.5 percentage points (11.2%) in the Abbotsford CMA, and by 3.1 percentage points (4.8%) in Regional BC.

The Vancouver CMA's average annual growth rate for the proportion of the 18 year old population that graduated from high school was 2.3% between 1995 and 2004. The equivalent rates for the other areas considered are: Victoria CMA (1.4%), Abbotsford CMA (1.8%), and, Regional BC (0.8%).

Notes: There may be slight variations between graduation rates contained in this report and those reported by provincial Ministries of Education. Data used in this indicator are made comparable across jurisdictions by Statistics Canada. Abbotsford is the sum of School Districts 34 & 75, Vancouver is the sum of School Districts 35-45, Victoria is the sum of School Districts 61-63.

School Completion Rate

In 2004/05, BC had a high school completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students.

The completion rate is provided as a companion to the graduation rate. Completion rates are determined by tracking the number of students entering grade 8 who graduate within six years. Graduation rates as they are presented elsewhere in this report differ from this as they represent the number of graduates in any given year as a percentage of the population of eighteen year olds in that year.

British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West. The rest of the top five districts (and their respective completion rates) are: West Vancouver (91%), Coquitlam (88%), Southeast Kootenay and Kootenay-Columbia (both at 87%). The bottom five consists of Vancouver Island West (59%), Gold Trail and Nicola-Similkameen (both at 60%), Stikine (62%) and Nisga'a (63%).

2004/05 Dogwood Completion Rate Summary

	All students	Girls	Boys	ESL	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal
British Columbia	79	83	76	84	48	31
Top Five Districts - All Students						
Richmond	93	96	90	95	43	50
West Vancouver	91	92	91	93	n/a	n/a
Coquitlam	88	90	85	90	63	25
Southeast Kootenay	87	90	84	100	52	35
Kootenay-Columbia	87	90	83	86	73	14
Bottom Five Districts - All Students						
Nisga'a	63	83	42	70	62	1
Stikine	62	59	65	n/a	52	10
Nicola-Similkameen	60	66	54	79	45	15
Gold Trail	60	74	46	41	48	12
Vancouver Island West	59	70	49	n/a	24	35

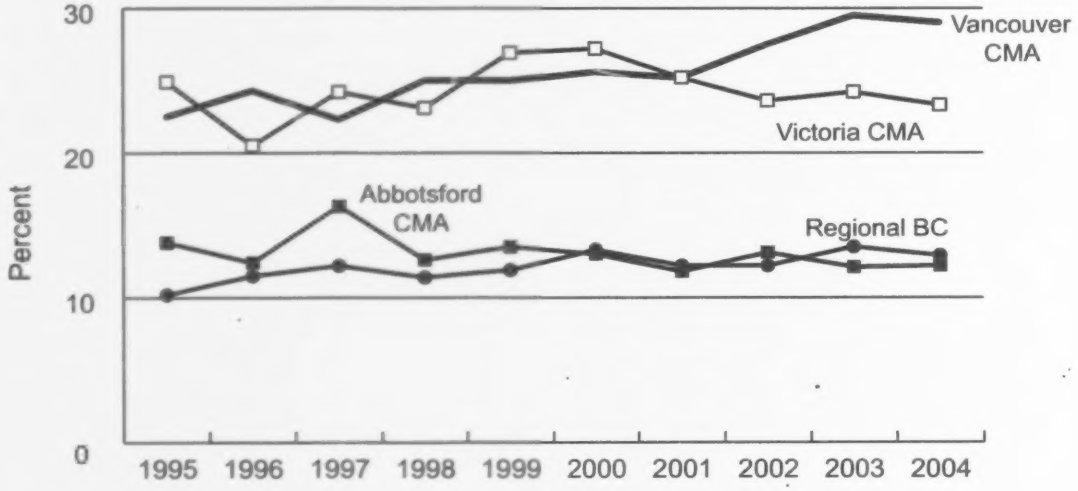
Source: BC Ministry of Education; n/a=suppressed due to small sample size

The Aboriginal completion rate generally trails that for the non-Aboriginal population with differences ranging from fifty-nine percentage points in New Westminster (77% vs. 18%) to one in the Nisga'a School District (63% vs. 62%). The Aboriginal population's completion in all of BC was thirty-one percentage points below that of the non-Aboriginal population (79% vs. 48%).

On average, English as a second language students (ESL) were more likely than the overall population to get their Dogwood. The ESL completion rate was five percentage points higher than for all students in 2004/05 (84% vs. 79%). The differences in the individual school districts are usually small but range from a twenty percentage point advantage in the Sunshine Coast (100% vs. 80%) to a 49 percentage point disadvantage in the Cowichan Valley (20% vs. 69%).

University Completion

Percent of the Population (aged 25-54) with University Completion, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of the population in British Columbia, aged 25 to 54, who have completed a university education. Excluded from the measure are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves.

Why it's Important

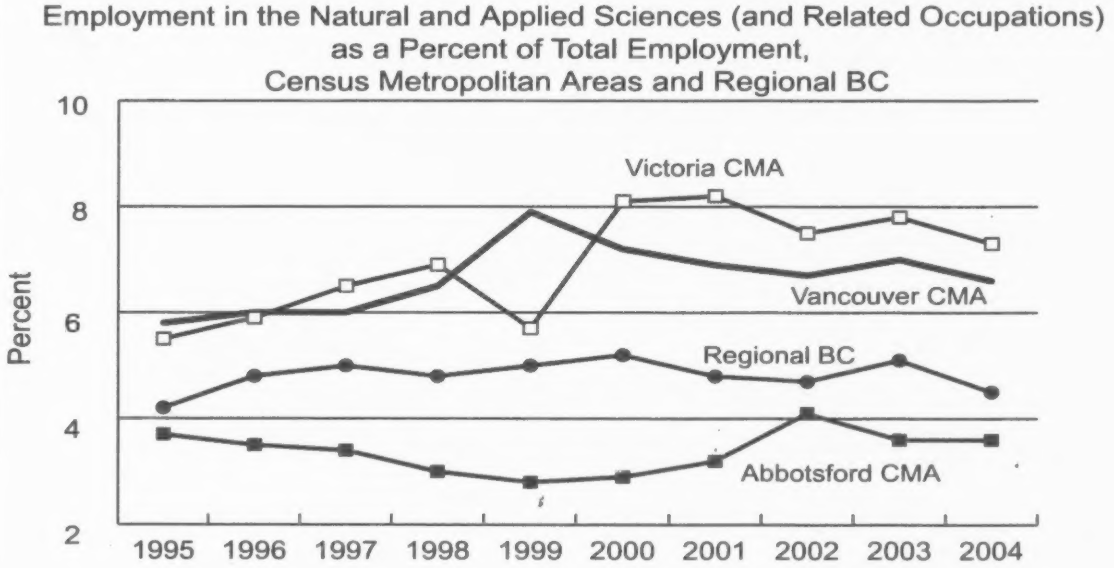
Though there are many different forms of post-secondary credentialing, university completion is an important indication of an area's efforts to build "top" academic, managerial and entrepreneurial skills necessary for the increasingly knowledge driven economy.

Analysis

The percentage of BC's population with a university education grew by 26.7% between 1995 and 2004. Over the same period, the Vancouver CMA had growth of 28.9%, Regional BC had growth of 26.6%, the Abbotsford CMA's ratio fell by 11.1% and the Victoria CMA's proportion of the population (aged 25-64) with a university education fell by 6.4%.

The proportion of the population with a university education was similar in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs over the period of analysis; the proportions in Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA were about half that of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. In 1995, the proportion in the Vancouver CMA was 22.5%, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 24.9%, and was 10.2% in Regional BC and 13.8% in the Abbotsford CMA. In 2004, the Vancouver CMA's ratio was 29.0%, the Victoria CMA's was 23.3% while 12.9% of Regional BC's population and 12.2% of the Abbotsford CMA's population had a university education.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of an area's total employment that is comprised of scientists and engineers.

Why it's Important

The number of scientists and engineers relative to total employment is a key "proxy" for the creation of high skill jobs and the attraction and retention of people who possess the knowledge and skill sets essential to the process of innovation and the creation of high paid employment.

Analysis

The proportion of BC's workforce active in the natural and applied sciences has increased between 1995 and 2004. The proportion in the Vancouver CMA increased by 13.7% (0.8 percentage points) from 5.79% in 1995 to 6.58% in 2004. The proportion in the Victoria CMA increased by 32.5% (1.8 percentage points) from 5.49% in 1995 to 7.28% in 2004. The proportion in the Abbotsford CMA fell by 2.1% (0.1 percentage points) from 3.68% in 1995 to 3.60% in 2004. The proportion in Regional BC increased by 7.4% (0.3 percentage point) from 4.24% in 1995 to 4.55% in 2004.

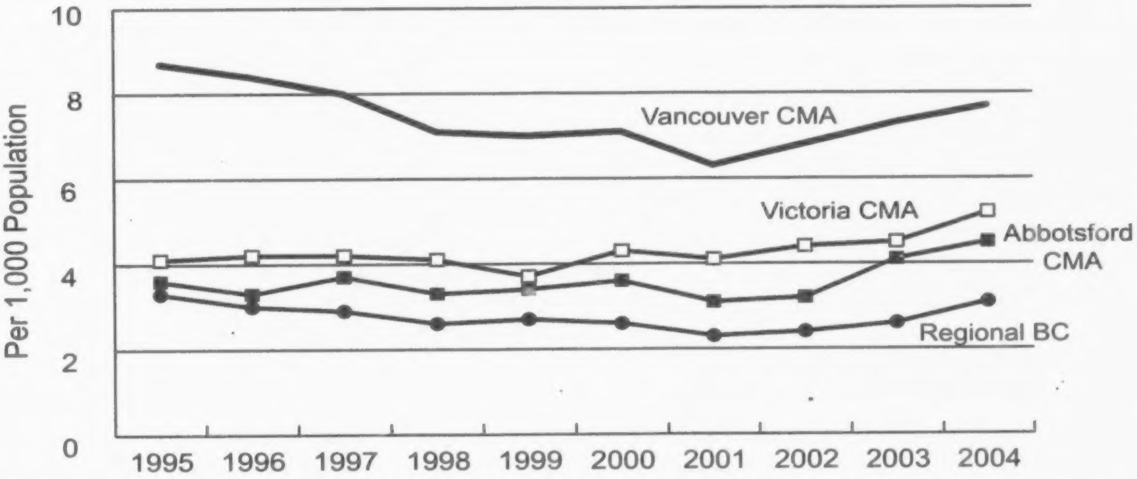
Between 1995 and 2004, the average annual growth rate in the proportion of total employment represented by those employed in the natural and applied sciences was: 1.2% in the Vancouver CMA, 4.2% in the Victoria CMA, 3.3% in the Abbotsford CMA, and 1.2% in Regional BC.

The Victoria CMA had the highest proportion of its workforce employed in natural and applied sciences in most of the years reviewed. On average, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 4.6% higher than the proportion in the Vancouver CMA and 44.6% higher than the proportion in Regional BC.

Performance Indicator 10 BC Regional Comparison

Net New Business Formation

Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population,
Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Finance and Superintendent of Bankruptcies

Description
This indicator measures net business formation by subtracting the number of business bankruptcies from the number of businesses incorporated in a given year. "Business incorporations" include firms incorporated under the Companies Act, administered by the BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on as a business. "Business bankruptcies" are attributable to liabilities incurred resulting from commercial activities.

Why it's Important
The number of net new business formations is an important measure of economic and entrepreneurial activity.

Analysis (Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population)
In 2004, there were 3.1 net business incorporations per 1,000 population in Regional BC, 4.5 in the Abbotsford CMA, 5.2 in the Victoria CMA and 7.7 in the Vancouver CMA. There were 25.7% more net business incorporations per 1,000 population in 2004 than in 1995 in the Victoria CMA, 24.3% more in the Abbotsford CMA but 11.7% fewer in 2004 than in 1995 in the Vancouver CMA and 5.9% fewer in Regional BC.

From the 1994 peak, net new business formations per 1,000 population in BC fell, on average, by 5.5% a year through 2001. However, all regions experienced positive growth in the relative number of net new formations in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and average annual growth for BC has been 8.0% over these three years.

Analysis (Total Net New Business Formations)
Most of the net formations were in the Vancouver CMA. On average, between 1995 and 2004, the Vancouver CMA registered 70.9% of all net formations, the Victoria CMA registered 6.6%, the Abbotsford CMA had 2.6% and Regional BC registered the remaining 19.9%.

Note: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District including the Gulf Islands for this indicator.

Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education

Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada experience an economic gap with the broader population, with higher levels of unemployment and lower incomes. Educational achievement and enrollment rates also lag those of non-Aboriginal students.

Generally speaking, available data on the Aboriginal population are nowhere near as detailed or as varied as data for the population as a whole. To address this gap, Statistics Canada began collecting Labour Market Survey data for Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in the four western provinces in 2004. The province of British Columbia sponsored an expansion of this survey to produce more reliable information.

Among the population aged 15-64 in 2004*, 71.5% of the non-Aboriginal population (ages 15-64) had a job. This compares to 58.0% of Aboriginal peoples to produce a 13.5 percentage point gap in the employment rate. The 2004 unemployment rate for the non-Aboriginal population was 6.6%. The rate for the Aboriginal population was more than 2½ times higher at 17.3%. In 2004, the average hourly wage rate for the non-Aboriginal population was $19.15 which was $2.13 higher than the rate for the Aboriginal population.

Employment & Income Trends**

While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it is narrowing. Data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses reveal improvements between the employment and education related performance of the Aboriginal population and that of BC's Non-Aboriginal population. While comparisons with the general population are illustrative, it is also important to look within Aboriginal communities, and recognize improvements made relative to past performance.

Employment and Participation Rates in BC, by population groups, ages 15+

	Employment Rate			Participation Rate		
	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change
Aboriginal	46.2	48.7	5.4	61.9	62.9	1.6
Non-Aboriginal	60.5	60.0	(0.80)	66.5	65.3	(1.8)
Total	60.0	59.6	(0.7)	66.4	65.2	(1.8)
Gap: Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	14.3	11.3	n/a	4.6	2.4	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

BC's Aboriginal population (ages 15 and older) reported a 62.9% labour force participation rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, Non-Aboriginal BC residents (ages 15 and older) reported a slightly higher participation rate (65.3%), a significantly higher employment rate (59.6%) and a significantly lower unemployment rate (8.5%). British Columbia's Aboriginal population posted a strong gain on the employment rate (5.4%) between 1996 and 2001 and also posted a gain in the participation rate. The Non-Aboriginal employment and participation rates fell by 0.8% and 1.8%, respectively. The employment

Notes: *2004 refers to the 12 month average from April 2004 to March 2005. **The employment and income data in this section are from a different source than those referenced in the section above and cannot be compared directly because of differences in the target population. Data on the Aboriginal population are limited and not updated often. Most of the data in this analysis are from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Censuses. Contrary to our usual practice of archiving material that can not be updated fully, this analysis remains from previous Reports due to the importance of the subject.

Continued on following page.

Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education (continued)

rate gap between Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals fell from 14.3 percentage points (31.0%) in 1996 to 11.3 percentage points (23.2%) in 2001. The participation rate gap fell from 4.6 to 2.4 percentage points (7.5% to 3.9%).

The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a median income of $13,242. This significantly lower median income among the Aboriginal community is on average 20.6% derived from government transfers, as compared to 11.8% for the general population.

A similar gap is evident when we consider employment income only. In 1995, on average, the Aboriginal population earned 64.7% as much as the Non-Aboriginal population. This gap narrowed to 67.4% in 2000 on the strength of a 9.9% growth in real earned income among the Aboriginal population and growth of 5.5% in real earned income in the Non-Aboriginal population.

Average Employment Earnings in BC, $2000

	1995 ($2000)	2000 ($2000)	1995 - 2000 Change, $2000 Dollars	1995 - 2000 Percent Change
Average Employment Income				
Aboriginal	19,560	21,496	1,936	9.9
Non-Aboriginal	30,240	31,910	1,670	5.5
Total	29,934	31,552	1,618	5.4
Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal, $	10,680	10,414	n/a	n/a
Aboriginal as a % of Non-Aboriginal	64.7	67.4	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

A related factor is the type of work performed by the Aboriginal population. In 2004, non-Aboriginals were almost twice as likely to be working in management and professional occupations than Aboriginals (25.3% vs. 13.3% for a gap of 12.0 percentage points). Thirty-five percent of Aboriginals were in the semi-professional and technical occupations versus 32.3% for non-Aboriginals and over half of all employed Aboriginals were in intermediate and lesser skilled occupations (51.6% vs. 42.3% for the non-Aboriginal population). In 2004, Aboriginal peoples were more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal peoples to work in the forest sector.

Education

The Aboriginal population is young relative to BC's overall population. Ensuring that this growing number of Aboriginal youth are adequately educated and trained will be a vital step in reducing the community's current employment and income gap relative to the Non-Aboriginal population. Completion rates have been on the increase in BC in recent years for Aboriginals as well as Non-Aboriginals. Between 1999/00 and 2003/04, the Aboriginal population saw an 8 percentage point increase in its' completion rate while the Non-Aboriginal rate improved by 4 percentage points, narrowing the completion rate gap from 39 in 1999/00 to 35 in 2003/04.

Completion Rates in BC, by population groups

	1999/00	2001/02	2003/04	1999/00 - 2003/04 Change
Aboriginal	39	42	47	8
Non-Aboriginal	78	80	82	4
Total	75	77	79	4
Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	39	38	35	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

IV. Environment, Health and Society

Regional Performance Indicators	
11.	Air Quality
12.	Cancer Mortality
13.	Life Expectancy at Birth
14.	Low Birth Weight
15.	Personal and Property Crime
16.	Low Income Incidence
17.	Employment Insurance
18.	Income Assistance

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

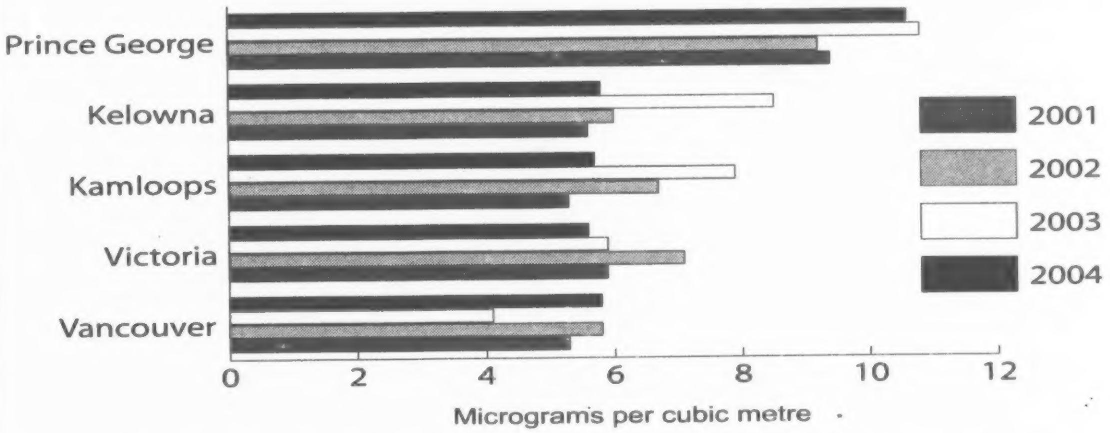
Environment, Health and Society

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2004	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	5.8	5.6	N/A	7.4	-
12. Cancer Mortality	2004	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.1	5.9	5.5	5.5	-
13. Life Expectancy at Birth	2004	Years	81.7	81.3	80.7	79.7	-
14. Low Birth Weight Rate	2004	percent of Live Births	5.9	5.4	6.4	5.2	+
15. Personal and Property Crime	2004	Incidents per 100 Pop.	8.3	6.7	8.9	7.7	+
16. Social Condition	2003	% of Families	19.8	19.9	N/A	17.5	+
17. Employment Insurance	2004	% of Pop. (15-64)	2.8	2.6	4.4	4.1	-
18. Income Assistance	2004	% of Pop. (0-64)	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.6	-

Note: Wastewater treatment has been dropped due to unavailability of data.

Air Quality

Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$ - µg/m^3), Annual Mean Concentration



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other sources emit fine particulates. Until recently air quality monitors focussed on particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but because of research showing that particulates 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk, monitors in Canada have switched over to the $PM_{2.5}$ standard. The best available data for 1994 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Why it's Important

Air quality has direct effects on human health. Fine particulates may affect breathing, aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense systems and damage lung tissue. Both premature mortality and emergency hospital visits may increase during times of high concentrations of fine particulates.

Analysis ($PM_{2.5}$)

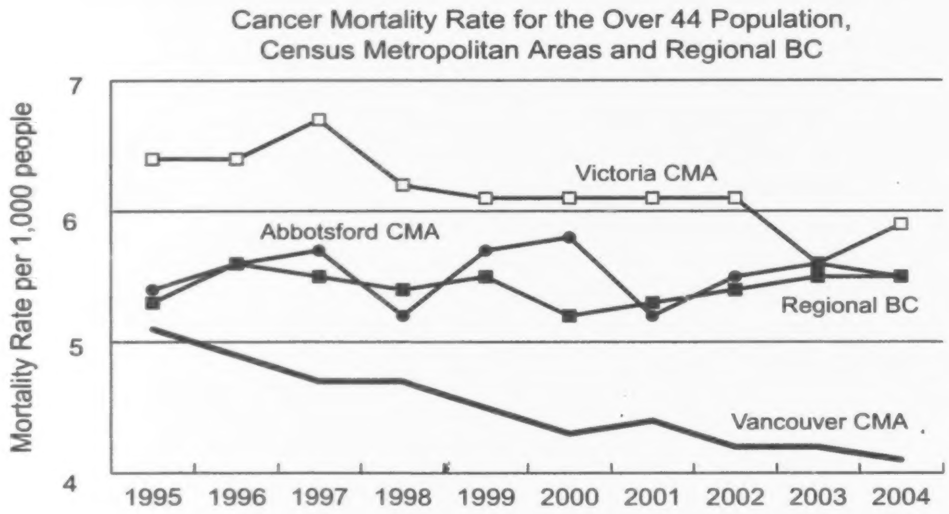
Victoria had the lowest concentrations of particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in 2004 at 5.6 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m^3). The concentration in Kamloops was the next lowest at 5.7 µg/m^3, followed by Vancouver and Kelowna at 5.8 µg/m^3. Prince George had the highest concentration of particulate matter at 10.6 µg/m^3.

Analysis (PM_{10})

Concentrations of particulate matter are generally higher in communities outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Lower Fraser Valley. Of the six major centres reviewed, Campbell River had the lowest particulate matter concentrations in 2000, at 12.4 µg/m^3. Langley was next at 12.5 µg/m^3, followed by Vancouver at 13.8 µg/m^3, Kamloops and Kelowna at 14.2 µg/m^3, and Prince George at 18.0 µg/m^3 of fine particulates.

Air quality, as measured by the annual mean concentration of PM_{10} particulates, improved in Vancouver, Langley, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Prince George between 1994 and 2000 by at least 6.8% (Vancouver) and by as much as 26.1% (Kelowna). Campbell River's air quality increased by 10.0% between 1998 and 2000.

Cancer Mortality



Cancer Mortality Rate for the Over 44 Population, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells form in human organs or tissue and grow to form a tumour. Two-thirds of all cancers are caused by a person's lifestyle, such as diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking habits. This indicator is a proxy for an area's propensity to make healthy lifestyle choices. Fully 95% of cancer deaths occur after the age of 45 years. The indicator is the total number of cancer deaths per 1,000 people for those aged 45 years and older.

Why it's Important

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. The National Cancer Institute of Canada estimates that there will be as many as 145,500 new cases of cancer and 68,300 cancer deaths in 2004. Approximately 43% of men and 38% of women will develop cancer. Fully 28% of men and 23% of women will die of cancer.

Analysis

Cancer mortality rates fell in the Vancouver CMA by 18.6% between 1995 and 2004, from 5.1 to 4.1 deaths per 1,000 people aged 45 years and older. Rates fell by 7.3% in the Victoria CMA but increased by 0.6% in the Abbotsford CMA and by 3.1% in Regional BC over this time period. Of the ten year-over-year changes analysed, the Vancouver CMA's rate increased twice, the rate in the Victoria CMA increased five times, by six times in Regional BC, and the cancer mortality rate in the Abbotsford CMA increased seven times.

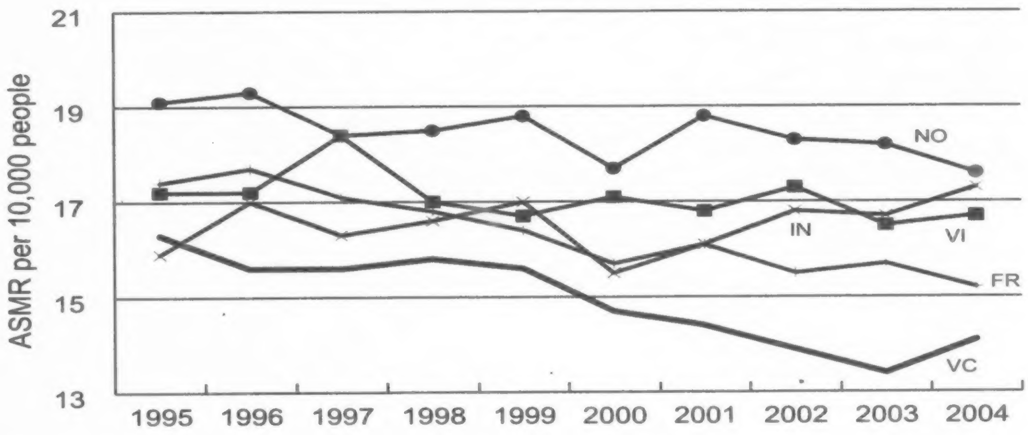
On average, over the period 1995 through 2004, the cancer mortality rate in the Victoria CMA was 36.4% higher than the rate in the Vancouver CMA and 13.4% higher than the rate in Regional BC.

In 2004, the most frequently diagnosed cancers will continue to be breast cancer for women and prostate cancer for men. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both women and men and, overall, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer.*

Note: *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2004, National Cancer Institute of Canada, April 2004.

Cancer Mortality

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average	1995 - 2004 Minimum	1995 - 2004 Maximum
Interior	IN	4	16.5	3	15.5	17.3
Fraser	FR	2	16.4	2	15.2	17.7
Vancouver Coastal	VC	1	14.9	1	13.4	16.3
Vancouver Island	VI	3	17.1	4	16.5	18.4
Northern	NO	5	18.5	5	17.6	19.3
British Columbia			16.4		15.7	17.2

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

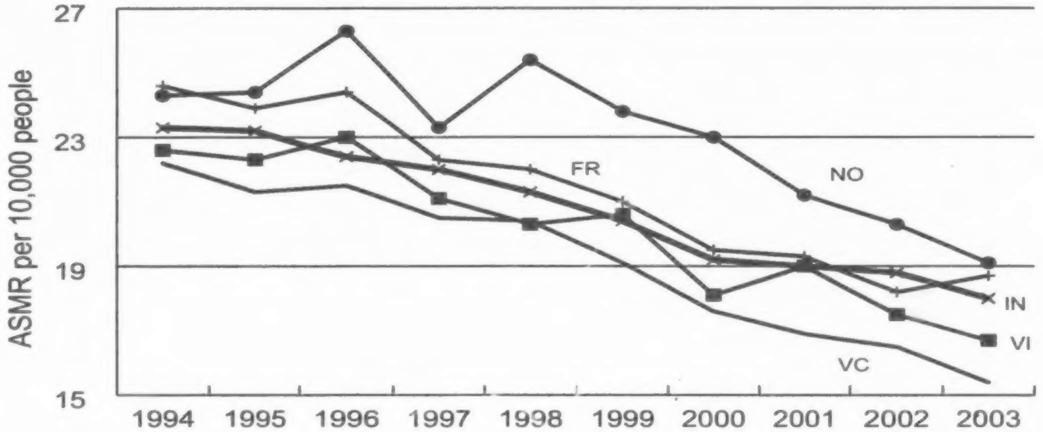
Over the period 1995 to 2004, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate among the Health Authorities with a rate of 13.4 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest cancer mortality rate for 2004 (17.6 deaths per 10,000 population) and had the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1995 through 2004 at 18.5 deaths per 10,000 population.

The cancer mortality rate in 2004 was lower than in 1995 in every region except the Interior Health Authority which shows an 8.5 percent increase. The largest decrease (13.6%) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority while the smallest decrease (3.1%) was in the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 7.0% lower in 2004 than in 1995.

Performance Indicator **12** Supplemental Information: By Health Authority

Mortality from Cardiovascular Disease

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

The general term cardiovascular disease includes all diseases of the circulatory system including acute myocardial infarction, ischemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, arrhythmias, high blood pressure and stroke. Cardiovascular disease is the cause of death of over one-third of Canadians.

Why it's Important

Heart disease has a major impact on an individual's quality of life, including chronic pain or discomfort, activity restriction, disability, and unemployment.

Cardiovascular Disease Mortality by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2003 Rank	1994 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1994 - 2003 Average	1994 - 2003 Minimum	1994 - 2003 Maximum
Interior	IN	3	20.7	3	18.0	23.3
Fraser	FR	4	21.4	4	18.2	24.6
Vancouver Coastal	VC	1	19.1	1	15.4	22.2
Vancouver Island	VI	2	20.1	2	16.7	23.0
Northern	NO	5	23.1	5	19.1	26.3
British Columbia			20.8		17.6	23.7

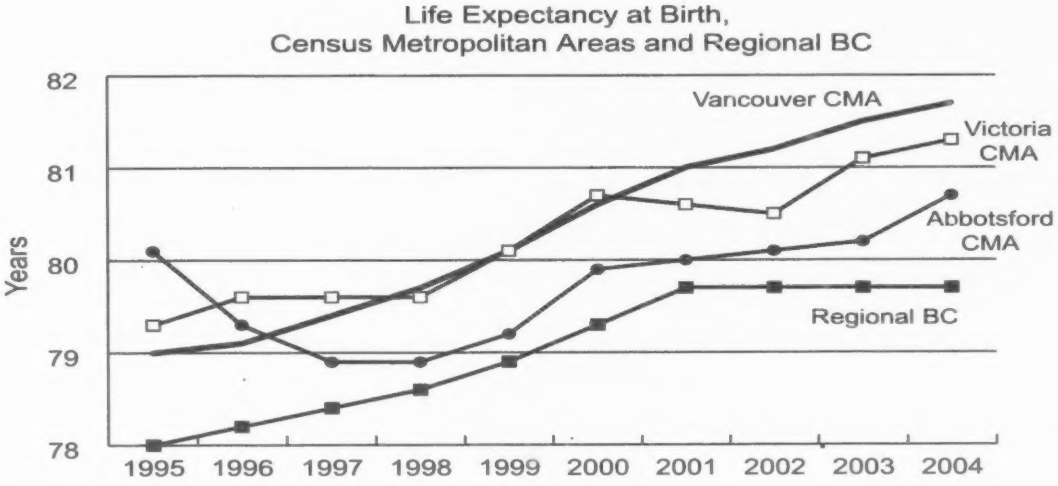
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The lowest 2003 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (15.4 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority; the highest (19.1) was in the Northern Health Authority.

Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2003 than in 1994 all across BC. The smallest 1994 to 2003 decrease (21.3%) in mortality was in the Northern Health Authority while the largest decrease (30.6%) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

Note: This indicator has been updated with revised data. However, data by Health Authority were not available for 2004 in time for publication.

Life Expectancy at Birth



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a child is expected to live based on the mortality rates prevailing at the child's birth. Factors affecting life expectancy include access to health care, diet, environment, wealth and economic development.

Why it's Important

This is a key indicator measuring the overall health of citizens in a jurisdiction. An increasing life expectancy at birth indicates that the overall health status of the population is improving while a decreasing life expectancy indicates a general deterioration in a population's health status.

Analysis

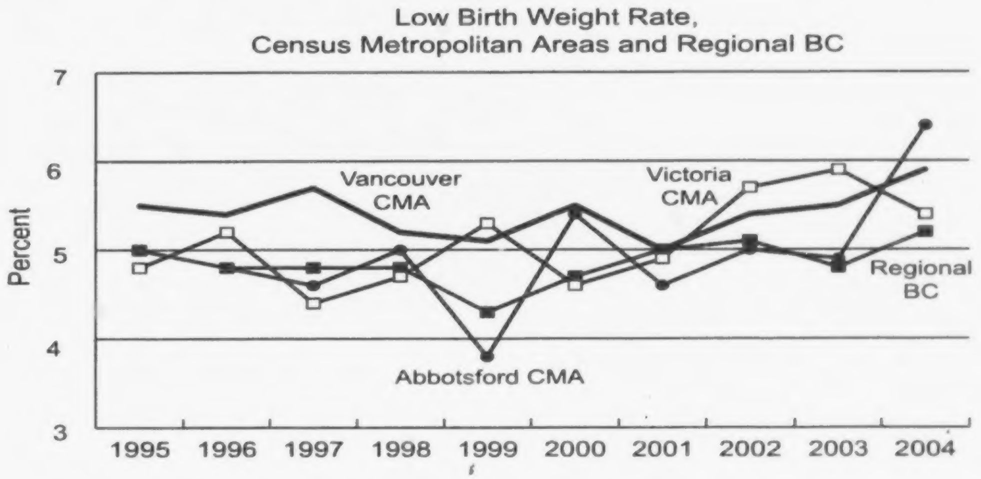
Life expectancy at birth in the Vancouver CMA increased from 79.0 years in 1995 to 81.7 years in 2004, a 3.5% improvement. In the Victoria CMA, life expectancy at birth increased from 79.3 years in 1995 to 81.3 years in 2004, a 2.5% improvement, while in the Abbotsford CMA it increased from 80.1 years in 1995 to 80.7 years in 2004, a 0.7% improvement. In Regional BC life expectancy at birth increased from 78.0 years in 1995 to 79.7 years in 2004, a 2.2% improvement. Life expectancy at birth in BC increased from 78.7 years in 1995 to 80.9 years in 2004, a 2.8% improvement.

On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1995 and 2004. Similarly, it increased on average, by 3½ months per year in the Victoria CMA, by 2 months a year in Regional BC, by ¾ of a month per year in the Abbotsford CMA, and by 3½ months a year in BC as a whole.

Year-to-year decreases in life expectancy at birth are rare. Of the changes in the 1995 through 2004 period, there were no decreases in the Vancouver CMA, Regional BC and in BC as a whole while there were three in the Abbotsford CMA and two in the Victoria CMA. The largest of these decreases was a four week decline in Abbotsford between 1995 and 1996.

Note: BC regional life expectancy data provided by the BC Vital Statistics Agency is more current than provincial or national data provided by Statistics Canada.

Low Birth Weight



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered to be low birth weight infants. This indicator presents the ratio of low weight births (birth weight less than 2,500 grams) to total live births. Factors that contribute to low birth weight are socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits. This indicator serves as a proxy for overall health and social condition.

Why it's Important

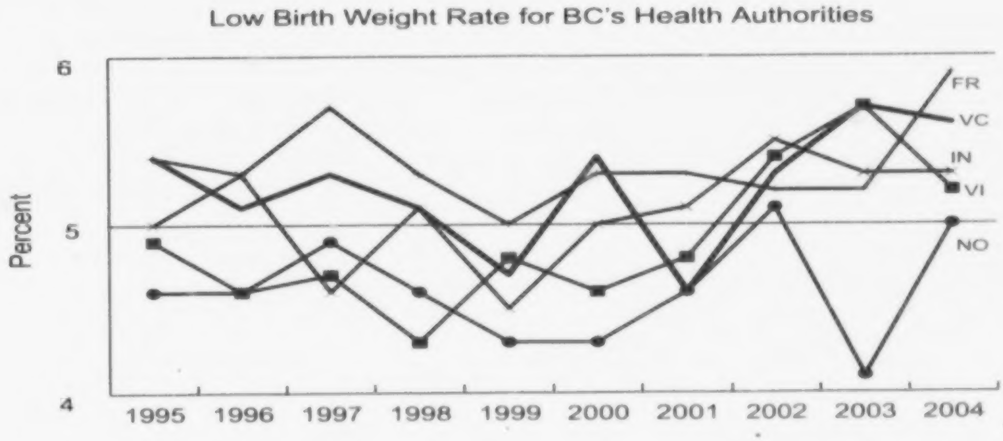
Low birth weight newborns have a substantially higher rate of post-birth illness and death. Long-term health problems, increased hospitalization rates and disabilities are also associated with low birth weight.

Analysis

In 2004, 6.4% of live births had low birth weight in the Abbotsford CMA. The ratio was 5.9% in the Vancouver CMA, 5.4% in the Victoria CMA and 5.1% of live births had a birth weight below 2,500 grams (the low weight threshold) in Regional BC.

The low birth weight ratio has been fairly volatile in all four regions with the difference from minimum to maximum values ranging from 18.3% in the Vancouver CMA to 70.3% in the Abbotsford CMA. That said, the average values for the three regions for the period 1995 through 2004 are quite close. The smallest difference being 2.3% between Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA and the largest difference being 6.6% between the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.

Low Birth Weight Rate



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Low Weight Births by Health Authority, percent

Health Authority	Abbr.	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average	1995 - 2004 Minimum	1995 - 2004 Maximum
Interior	IN	3	5.1	3	4.5	5.5
Fraser	FR	5	5.4	5	5.0	5.9
Vancouver Coastal	VC	4	5.2	4	4.6	5.7
Vancouver Island	VI	2	4.9	2	4.3	5.7
Northern	NO	1	4.6	1	4.1	5.1
British Columbia			5.2		4.8	5.6

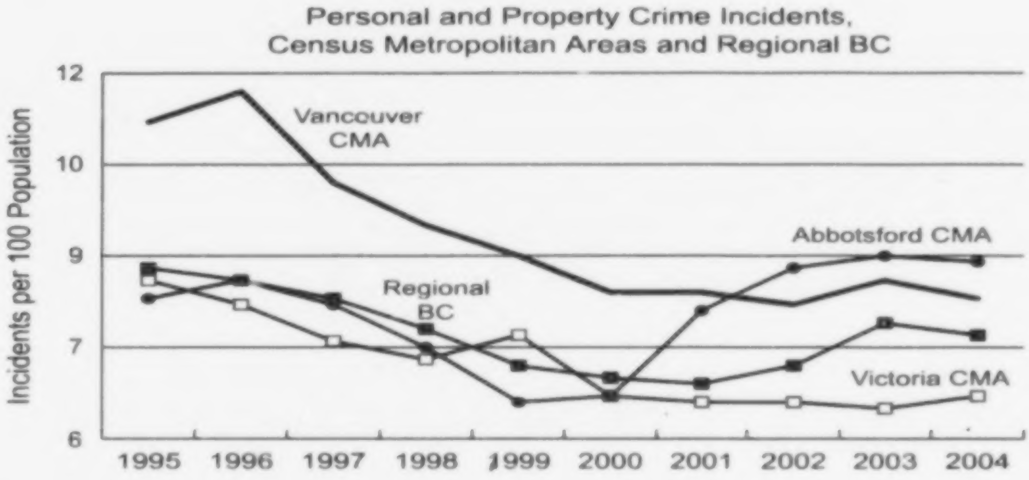
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2004 rate of low weight births (5.9%) and the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1995 and 2004, at 5.4%.

The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2004 (5.0%) and the lowest 1995 through 2004 average rate (4.6%).

The 2004 rate of low weight births was above the 1995 rate in all the Health Authorities. However, this indicator is fairly volatile from year to year and different ten-year comparisons using different start and end dates can yield either increases or decreases for several of the Health Authorities. In addition, British Columbia performs well on this indicator whether compared to other provinces, US states or OECD nations.

Personal and Property Crime



Personal and Property Crime Incidents, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Public Security and Solicitor General.

Description

Personal and property crime rates are the number of reported incidents, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Why it's Important

The crime rate is both a reflection of community safety and security and an indicator of other social and economic problems. It can reflect lack of opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction. Crime is very costly to society, from both individual and community perspectives.

Analysis

In 2004, the Abbotsford CMA experienced 8.9 crime incidents for every 100 residents. This was higher than the Vancouver CMA which had 8.3 crimes per 100 residents, Regional BC with 7.7 incidents per 100 residents or the Victoria CMA with 6.7 incidents per 100 residents. On average, between 1995 and 2004, crime rates in the Vancouver CMA were 29.0% higher than in the Victoria CMA, 20.9% higher than in Regional BC and 16.0% higher than in the Abbotsford CMA.

Crime rates dropped in every year between 1995 and 2001 as well as in 2004, but increased in 2002 and 2003 in Regional BC. Crime rates fell in every year between 1995 and 2001 as well as in 2003 in the Victoria CMA but increased in 2002 and 2004. In general, they also dropped in the Vancouver CMA over this time period although they increased in 1995 and 1996, were flat in 2001 and increased in 2003. Overall, between 1995 and 2004, crime rates fell by 26.1% in the Vancouver CMA, by 22.2% in the Victoria CMA and by 13.1% in Regional BC. Crime rates in the Abbotsford CMA were 6.7% higher in 2004 than in 1995.

No update available this year.
See note box for additional information.

Performance Indicator 15 Supplemental Information: Crime Rate

Crime Rate by Municipality

Smithers saw the largest increase in its crime rate with 62.2% increase from 181 incidents in 1994 per 1,000 population to 294 in 2003. Squamish (35.2%) and Summerland (32.9%) also had large 1994 - 2003 increases. In contrast, Sidney saw its crime rate drop by 51.1% from 111 incidents per 1,000 population in 1994 to 54 in 2003. Large decreases were also seen in Qualicum Beach (50.2%), and Revelstoke (42.0%). Forty-one of the sixty-four municipalities with full data had lower crime rates in 2003 than in 1994.

Crime Rates per 1,000 population

	1994	1999	2003	2002 - 2003 Percent Change (70 Municipalities reported data)	1994 - 2003 Percent Change (64 Municipalities reported full data)
Largest Increases					
Smithers	181	182	294	13.9	62.2
Squamish	162	138	219	27.5	35.2
Summerland	62	56	82	24.5	32.9
Powell River	113	114	144	4.0	27.8
Kimberley	77	96	96	23.8	24.7
Largest Decreases					
Sidney	111	76	54	(3.3)	(51.1)
Qualicum Beach	149	73	74	(12.0)	(50.2)
Revelstoke	145	85	84	(20.4)	(42.0)
Central Saanich	74	58	46	(2.6)	(38.3)
Comox	111	57	71	(17.4)	(36.4)

Source: Municipal Crime Rate Report, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

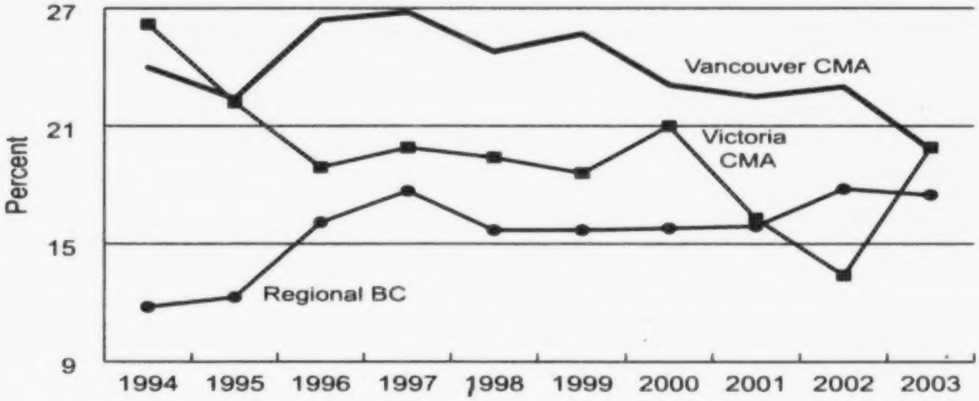
Excluded from "2003 Rank": Esquimalt, Fernie and Port Hardy. Excluded from "1994-2003 Percent Change": Spallumcheen, Lake Country, Ladysmith, Sooke, Whistler, Hope, Esquimalt, Fernie and Port Hardy.

Although these data can be used to rank municipalities based on their overall crime rate, they are intended to show how rates change over time within a given municipality rather than how the rate in one municipality compares to the rate in another. Comparisons between municipalities are difficult to interpret because the resident population of the municipality may not reflect the number of people who frequent it. The examples given by the Police Services Division are a municipality that is a core city and serves as the business and entertainment district for people from surrounding municipalities and tourist destinations which have large part-time populations. While the crimes do indeed occur within the boundaries of the relevant municipality, assigning those crimes to an appropriate population is difficult.

Note: Updated data (to 2004) are expected shortly after the release of this document.

Low Income Incidence

Families and Unattached Individuals with Income Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Off for Vancouver, Victoria and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description*

This measure is the ratio of families and unattached individuals with low incomes (after-tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Why it's Important

There are a number of negative outcomes for families experiencing low incomes. People with low income may experience more physical and mental health problems, rely more on charity, attain lower levels of education, or have higher secondary school drop out rates.

Analysis

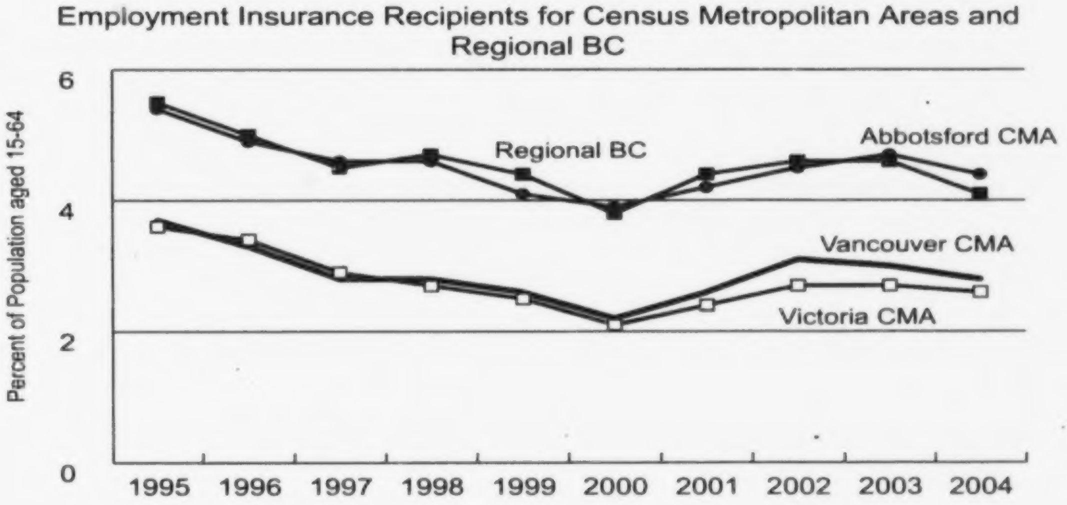
The Victoria CMA had the highest low income incidence in 2003 with a rate of 19.9%. This compares to the Vancouver CMA at 19.8% and Regional BC at 17.5%. The low income ratio was highest in the Vancouver CMA for most years reviewed.

In 2003, the percentage of Vancouver families and unattached individuals below the after-tax Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) was 17.5% (4.2 percentage points) lower than it was in 1994. On a relative basis, there were 48.3% (5.7 percentage points) more people below LICO in Regional BC in 2003 than in 1994. The 2003 ratio in the Victoria CMA was 24.0% (6.3 percentage points) lower than in 1994 while the ratio for all of BC was 3.1% (0.6 percentage points) lower in 2003 than in 1994.

In 2003, the low income ratio in the Vancouver CMA was 17.0% (4.1 percentage points) lower than the city's 10 year average. The ratio in the Victoria CMA was 1.6% (0.3 percentage points) higher than its average and Regional BC's ratio was higher by 12.0% (1.9 percentage points).

Note: *For further discussion of the LICO, please see the Supplemental Information boxes in Volume I.

Employment Insurance Recipients



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 15-64. Employment Insurance (EI) helps unemployed Canadians between jobs by providing temporary financial assistance while they look for work, upgrade their skills, are pregnant, care for a newborn (or adopted child), or are sick.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the labour force not able to find employment is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction. When an economy is growing strongly, new jobs are created and, unless the labour force grows enough to offset the growth in jobs, the unemployment rate will fall and there should be fewer people collecting Employment Insurance benefits.

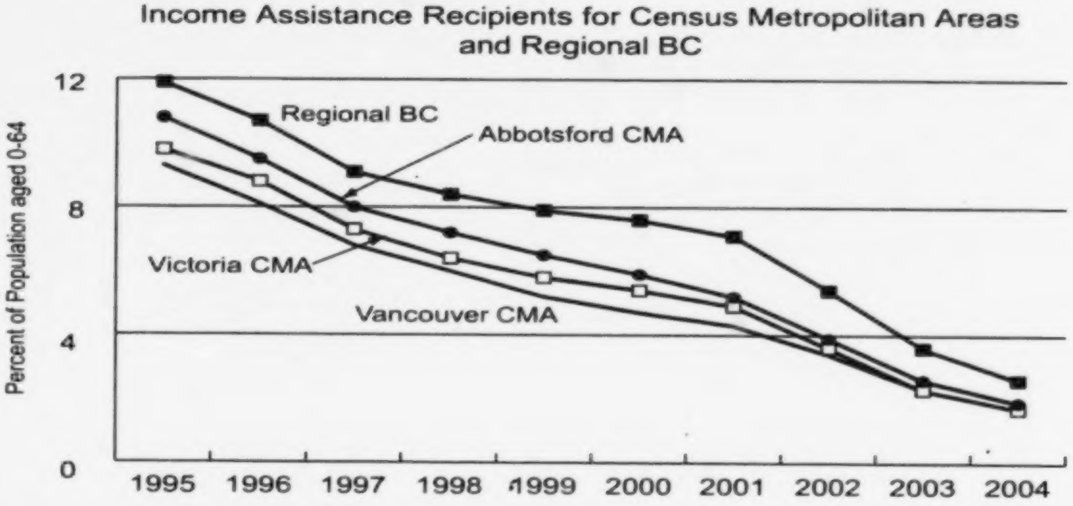
Analysis

The proportion of the population (aged 19-64) receiving EI benefits is higher in the Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC than in the Vancouver or Victoria CMAs. On average, between 1995 and 2004, the ratio in Regional BC was 57.8% than in the Vancouver CMA. The average ratio in the Abbotsford CMA was 57.4% higher.

Over the period of analysis, the number of EI beneficiaries in BC bottomed out at 72,841 in 2000. In 2000: there were 3,560 EI beneficiaries in the Abbotsford CMA (3.9% of the population aged 19-64), 4,250 beneficiaries in the Victoria CMA (2.1% of the population aged 15-64), 30,082 beneficiaries in the Vancouver CMA (2.2% of the population aged 15-64), and 34,949 in Regional BC (3.8% of the population aged 15-64).

All regions in British Columbia had increases in the proportion of population in receipt of EI benefits between the trough of 2000 and 2001 and between 2001 and 2002. Between 2002 and 2003, Vancouver and Regional BC had decreases in the proportion and Victoria and Abbotsford had increases. All regions had decreases between 2003 and 2004.

Income Assistance Recipients



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Income Assistance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 0-64. The Income Assistance (IA) program in BC provides essential income support, employment and training support, and other benefits to a wide range of people who need temporary assistance and meet eligibility requirements under the BC Benefits (Income Assistance) Act. The program is strictly limited to those in need. Eligibility is determined by stringent income and asset testing.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the population collecting income assistance benefits (commonly referred to as welfare) is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction and may also indicate problems in the incentive structure of the income assistance programs available within a jurisdiction.

Analysis

A general pattern of large increases in the income assistance recipients-to-population ratio in the early 1990s followed by even larger decreases in the ratio in the mid-to-late 1990s was seen all across the country. In BC, the ratio peaked in 1995 and fell by 80.6% from the peak to 2004.

The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits has followed similar patterns in the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs and in Regional BC. The proportion peaked in 1995 at 9.3% in the Vancouver CMA, 9.8% in the Victoria CMA, 10.8% in the Abbotsford CMA and 11.9% in Regional BC. Since 1995, the number of beneficiaries as a percent of the population (aged 0-64) has fallen by 82.9% in the Victoria CMA, 82.2% in the Abbotsford CMA, 82.2% in the Vancouver CMA and 77.9% in Regional BC. The proportion of the population collecting income assistance has consistently been higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver, Victoria or Abbotsford CMAs although the differences are not large.

Note: The Ministry of Human Resources tracks the percent of BC population aged 19-64 receiving temporary assistance with employment-related obligations. These data are available by health authority and will be considered for inclusion when a long enough time series is available.

Status Indian* Population and Health

British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. Similar to employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement in key health outcome indicators relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indian and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight.

As of 2002, BC's Status Indian population numbered 151,783 individuals, or 3.7% of the total BC population. While the province's Non-Status Indian population grew by 6.4% between 1996 and 2002, the Status Indian population grew by 16.0%, more than twice the rate of growth. More rapid population growth among the province's Aboriginal community has been reflected in an age distribution that varies markedly from that of BC's overall population. The median age of British Columbia's total population is 38.4 years, 81.9% of the population is aged 15 and over, while 13.6% is 65 or over. In contrast, the median age of the Aboriginal population is 26.8 years with 69.4% of the population being 15 years of age or over, and 4.3% being age 65 and over.

Population by Group in BC

	1992	1996	1992 - 1996 Percent Change	2002	1996 - 2002 Percent Change	1992 - 2002 Percent Change
Status Indian	110,005	130,806	18.9	151,783	16.0	38.0
Non-Aboriginal	3,360,302	3,751,237	11.6	3,989,489	6.4	18.7
Total	3,470,307	3,882,043	11.9	4,141,272	6.7	19.3

Source: BC Vital Statistics

Life Expectancy at Birth

While there are a variety of indicators available that provide some measure of the overall health of a population, life expectancy at birth is one of the most widely used. Increases in a child's probable life span, as judged at the time of birth based on current mortality rates, provide an indication of positive improvements in a society's general health.

Currently, the average child born in BC can expect to live 80.8 years. This life span is slightly higher than the Canadian average and ranks above any other Canadian province or territory. However, a child born in the province's Status Indian community can expect an average life span of 77.2 years – three and a half years less than the life expectancy for the total BC population.

While the Status Indian community's life expectancy lags that of BC's general population it has made marked improvement in the past decade – with today's rates a full 15.9% higher than just twelve years ago, when the average child born in the Status Indian community was expected to live 66.7 years. The rate of change in this

Notes: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. The Vital Statistics data are usually updated every year but BC Vital Statistics has not been able to complete their analysis this year. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses. Data on the Aboriginal population is limited and not updated very often. Most of the data in this analysis are from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Canadian Censuses. Contrary to our usual practice of archiving material that can not be updated fully, this analysis remains due to the importance of the subject.

Status Indian Population and Health (continued)

Life Expectancy at Birth in BC, in years, by population groups

	1992*	1996*	1992* - 1996* Percent Change	2000*	2002*	2000* - 2002* Percent Change	1991* - 2002* Percent Change
Status Indians	66.7	71.6	7.4	74.2	77.2	4.0	15.9
Total	78.4	79.0	0.8	80.4	80.8	0.5	3.1
Gap: Total less Status Indians	11.7	7.4	n/a	6.2	3.6	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics; **Notes:** 1992*=1991-93, 1996*=1995-97, 2000*=1999-01, 2002*=2001-03

measure has slowed as life expectancy nears that of the general population, but it is still much higher than the improvements being seen by the rest of the BC population.

Low Birth Weight

The Status Indian* community reported a rate of 60.2 low weight births per 1,000 live births in 2003. This is 7.4% higher than the rate for the general population, 52.8 low weight births per 1,000 live births. Year to year data variations mean that in some years rates of low weight newborns appear similar for both populations. However, an average of low birth weight rates over the period 1991 through 2003 yields an average rate of 55.9 for the Status Indian population versus 50.4 for the general population, a difference of 10.9%.

Similar to the total population, the rate for Status Indian low weight births varies by Health Authority. Northern Health Authority Status Indians reported a 49.0 low weight birth rate while Status Indians in the Fraser Health Authority reported a rate of 75.5 low weight births per 1,000 live births.

The low birth weight rate is volatile, with rates for the Status Indian population ranging from a low of 52.3 in 1998 and 2000 to a high of 60.2 in 2003 over the 1991 to 2003 time period. The 2003 rate is well above the 1991 to 2003 average but will likely drop soon. The rate for British Columbia as a whole has also increased above its long-term average in recent years.

Low Birth Weight Rate in BC, by population groups

	1991	1996	2001	2003	2001 - 2003 Average	1991 - 2003 Minimum	1991 - 2003 Maximum
Status Indians	57.9	56.3	54.8	60.2	55.9	52.3	60.2
Total	48.2	51.1	49.5	52.8	50.4	47.5	52.8
Gap: Status Indians less Total	9.7	5.2	5.3	7.4	5.5	4.8	7.4

Sources: BC Vital Statistics

Note: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses.

Appendices

A. Board Members, Staff and Advisory Group Members

Board Members and Staff

Members:

Mr. David Black, Chair
President
Black Press Ltd.

Mr. Alex A. Campbell
Chair
Thrifty Foods

Mr. Herman Driediger
CEO
Driediger Investments Ltd.

Ms. Eva Lee Kwok
Chair & CEO
Amara International Investment Corporation

Ms. Jill Leversage
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Corporate and Investment Banking
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Mr. Gerry Martin
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Mr. Jeet Sandhu
Owner
Eddies Countrywide

Ms. Carol W. Seable
President & CEO
Fairmont Hotsprings Resort Ltd.

Mr. Jim Shepherd
President & CEO
Canfor Corporation

Mr. Ken Shields
President & CEO
Raymond James Ltd.

Mr. Mark Shuparski
President
Pacific Capital Investments

Mr. Brian Surerus
President
Surerus Pipeline Inc.

Mr. David A. Thompson
Former Deputy Chairman & CEO
Teck Cominco Ltd.

Mr. Doug Whitehead
President & CEO
Finning International Inc.

Staff:

Mr. Tim McEwan
Executive Director

Mr. Joel Emes
Senior Analyst

Ms. Monica Jang
Administrative Coordinator

Advisory Group Members

Mr. Jock Finlayson
Executive Vice President - Policy
Business Council of British Columbia

Dr. Maurice Levi
Bank of Montreal Chair in International Finance
Sauder School of Business
University of British Columbia

Mr. Helmut Pastrick
Chief Economist
Credit Union Central of British Columbia

Dr. Richard Harris
Telus Professor of Economics
Simon Fraser University

Mr. Stuart Mackay
President
MMK Consulting

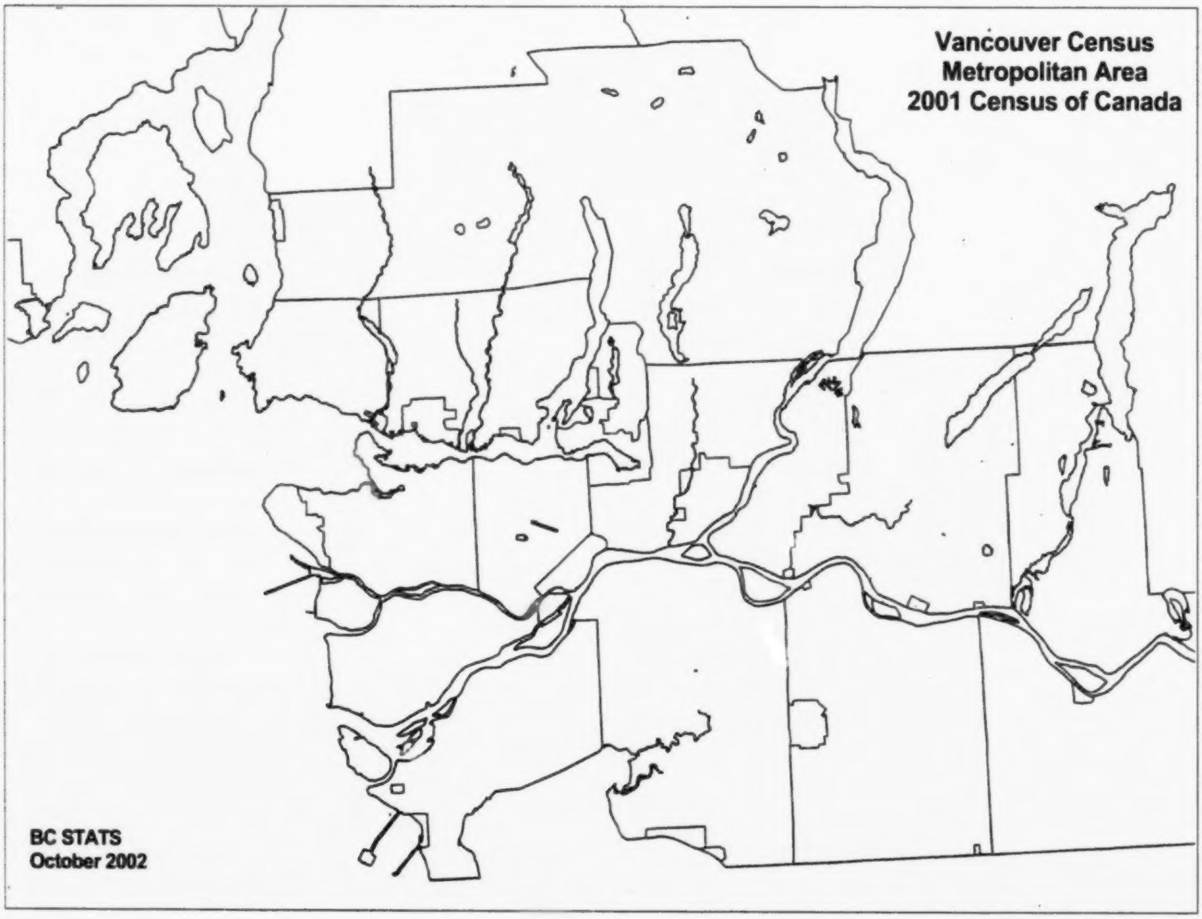
B. Methodology

British Columbia consists of a number of regional economies that differ significantly from each other in both industrial structure and social composition. This volume of the 2004 Benchmarking Report includes information comparing "large urban British Columbia" (here defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and the Victoria CMA) and "Regional British Columbia" (the rest of the province) on a variety of economic, social and environmental indicators. Data limitations prevent comparisons at a sub-provincial level for many of the indicators included within the core benchmarking framework. Some measures reported in this volume match those used for the province as a whole. Where appropriate, proxy indicators are used when sub-provincial data are not available for the core target and performance indicators.

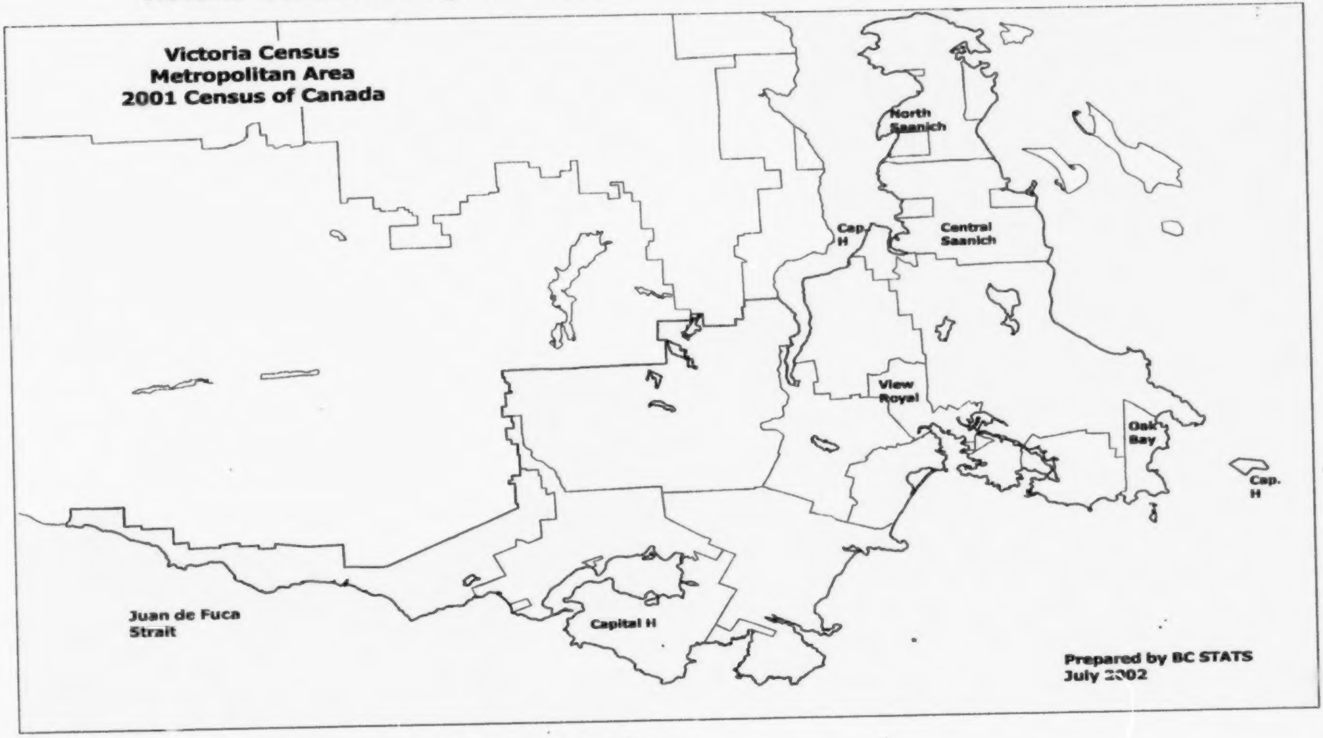
Census Metropolitan Areas

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. The 2001 Census of Canada identified a third CMA around Abbottsford. Data for Abbotsford have been added where available.

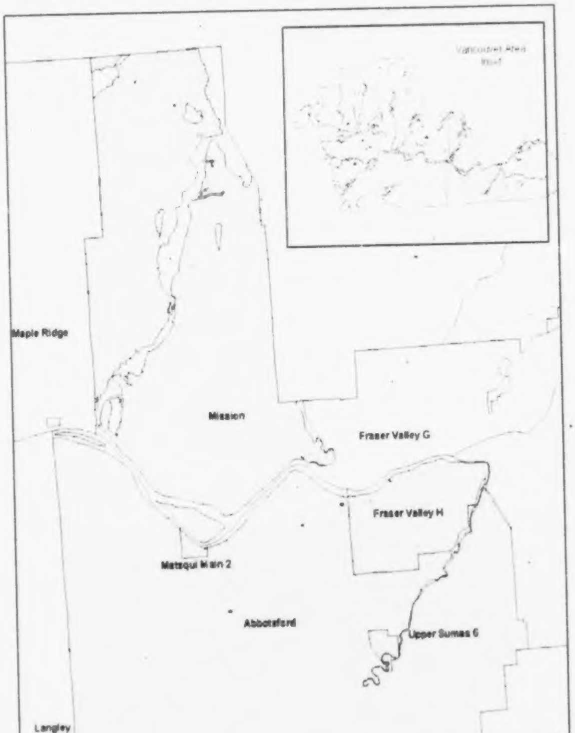
Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area



Victoria Census Metropolitan Area

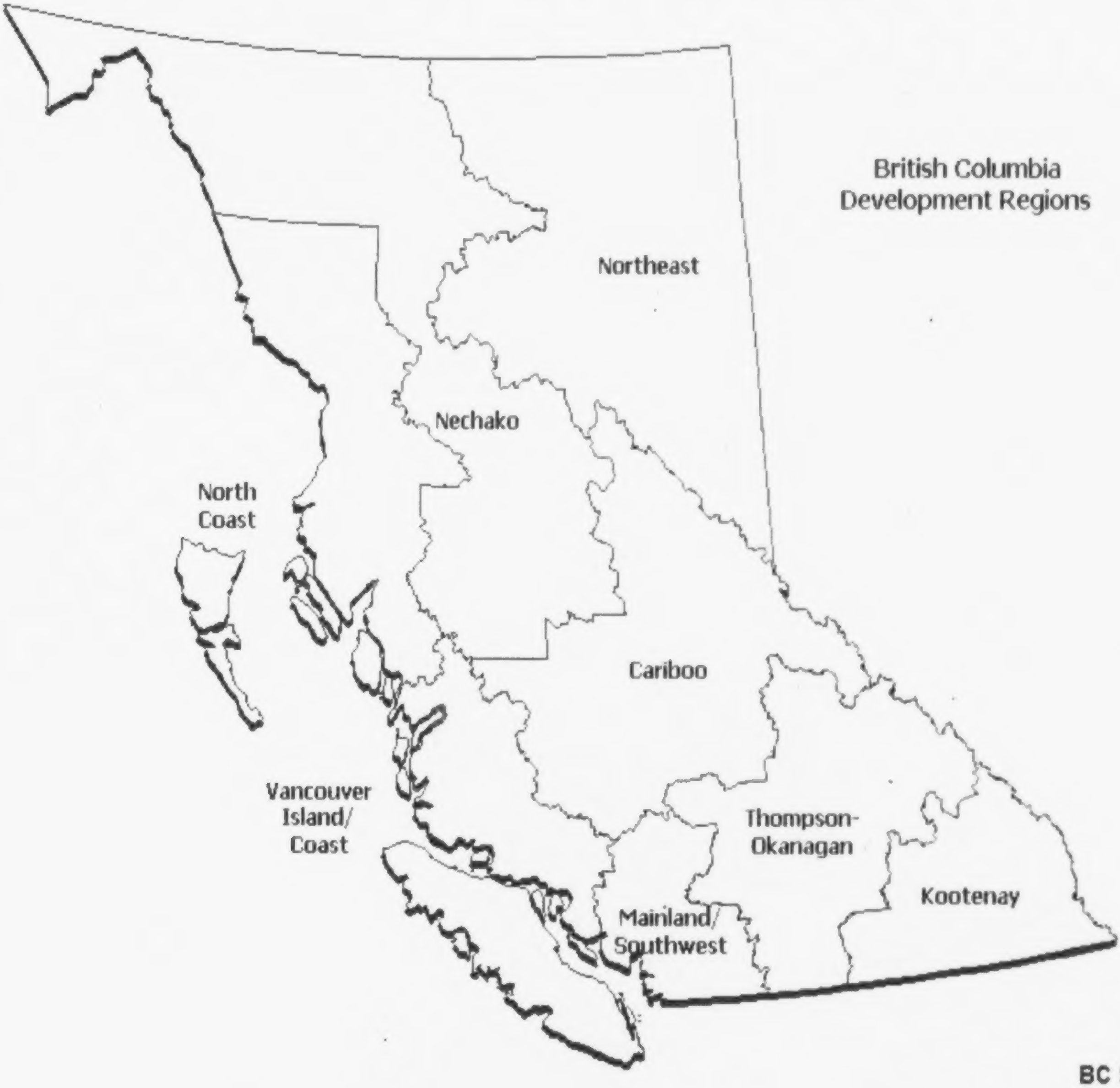

Victoria Census
Metropolitan Area
2001 Census of Canada
North Saanich
Cap. H
Central Saanich
View Royal
Oak Bay
Cap. H
Capital H
Juan de Fuca Strait
Prepared by BC STATS
July 2002

Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area


Vancouver Area Inset
Maple Ridge
Mission
Fraser Valley G
Fraser Valley H
Matsqui Main 2
Abbotsford
Upper Sumas 6
Langley
Prepared by BC STATS

Development Regions

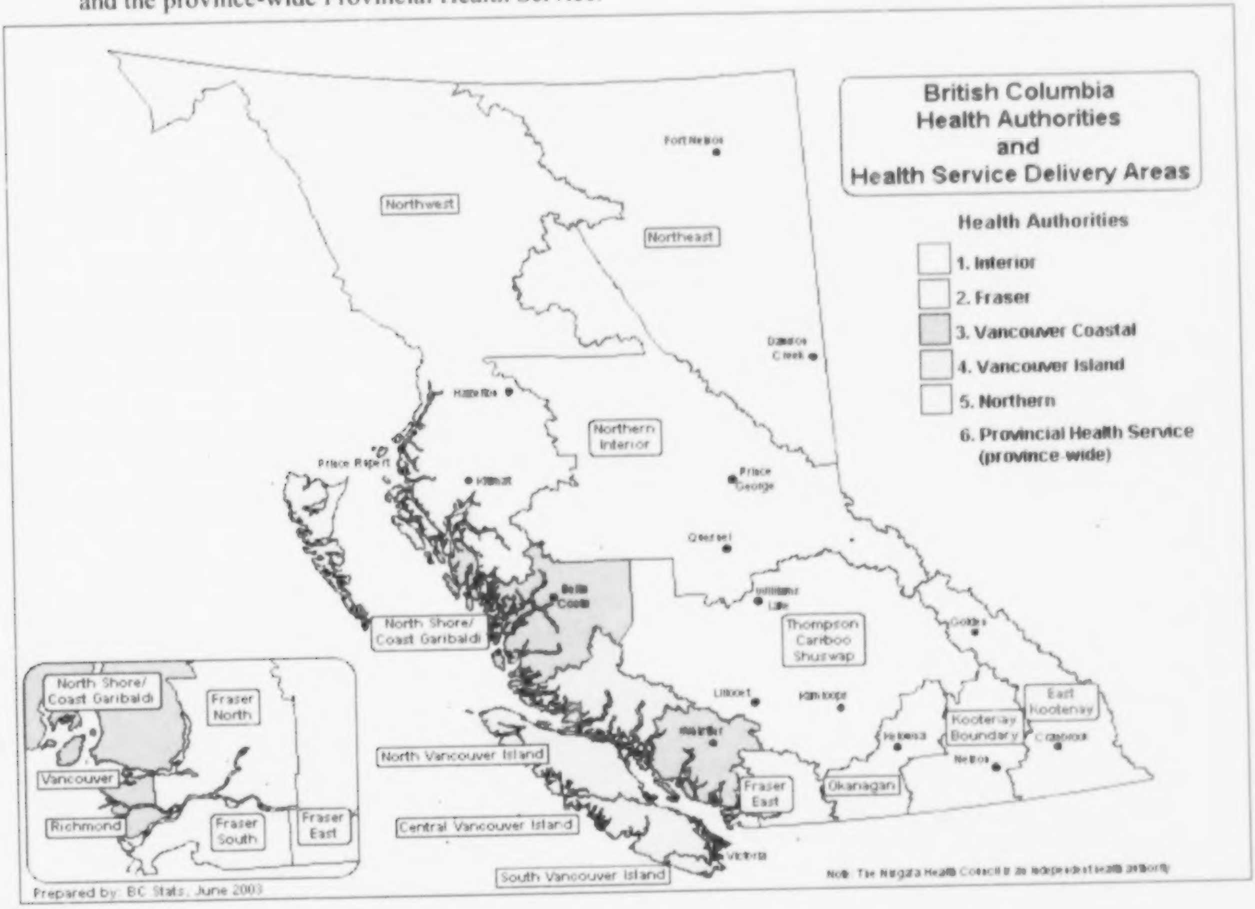
BC Stats' Development Regions coincide with Statistics Canada's Economic Regions. An economic region is a grouping of complete census divisions (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity. British Columbia's Development Regions are as follows: Vancouver Island-Coast, Mainland-Southwest, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako and Northeast.


British Columbia
Development Regions
Northeast
Nechako
North Coast
Cariboo
Vancouver Island/ Coast
Thompson-Okanagan
Kootenay
Mainland/ Southwest

BC STATS

Health Authorities

There are six Health Authorities in BC: Interior, Fraser, Vancouver-Coastal, Vancouver Island, Northern and the province-wide Provincial Health Service.


British Columbia
Health Authorities
and
Health Service Delivery Areas
Health Authorities
1. Interior
2. Fraser
3. Vancouver Coastal
4. Vancouver Island
5. Northern
6. Provincial Health Service (province wide)
Northwest
Northeast
Northern Interior
North Shore/ Coast Garibaldi
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
East Kootenay
Kootenay Boundary
Okanagan
Fraser East
North Vancouver Island
Central Vancouver Island
South Vancouver Island
Fraser North
Fraser South
Vancouver
Richmond
Fort Nelson
Dawson Creek
Hazelton
Prince Rupert
Kitimat
Prince George
Quesnel
Bella Coola
Williams Lake
Golden
Lillooet
Kamloops
Kelowna
Cranbrook
Nelson
Nanaimo
Victoria
Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2003
Note: The Nisga'a Health Council is an independent health authority

List of Acronyms

BC Regions:

- DR – Development Region
- HA – Health Authority
- CMA– Census Metropolitan Area
- GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District (Vancouver)
- LFV – Lower Fraser Valley
- CRD – Capital Regional District (Victoria)
- RBC – Regional BC

Statistical:

- IA – Income Assistance
- EI – Employment Insurance
- ASMR – Age Standardized Mortality Rate

Health Authorities

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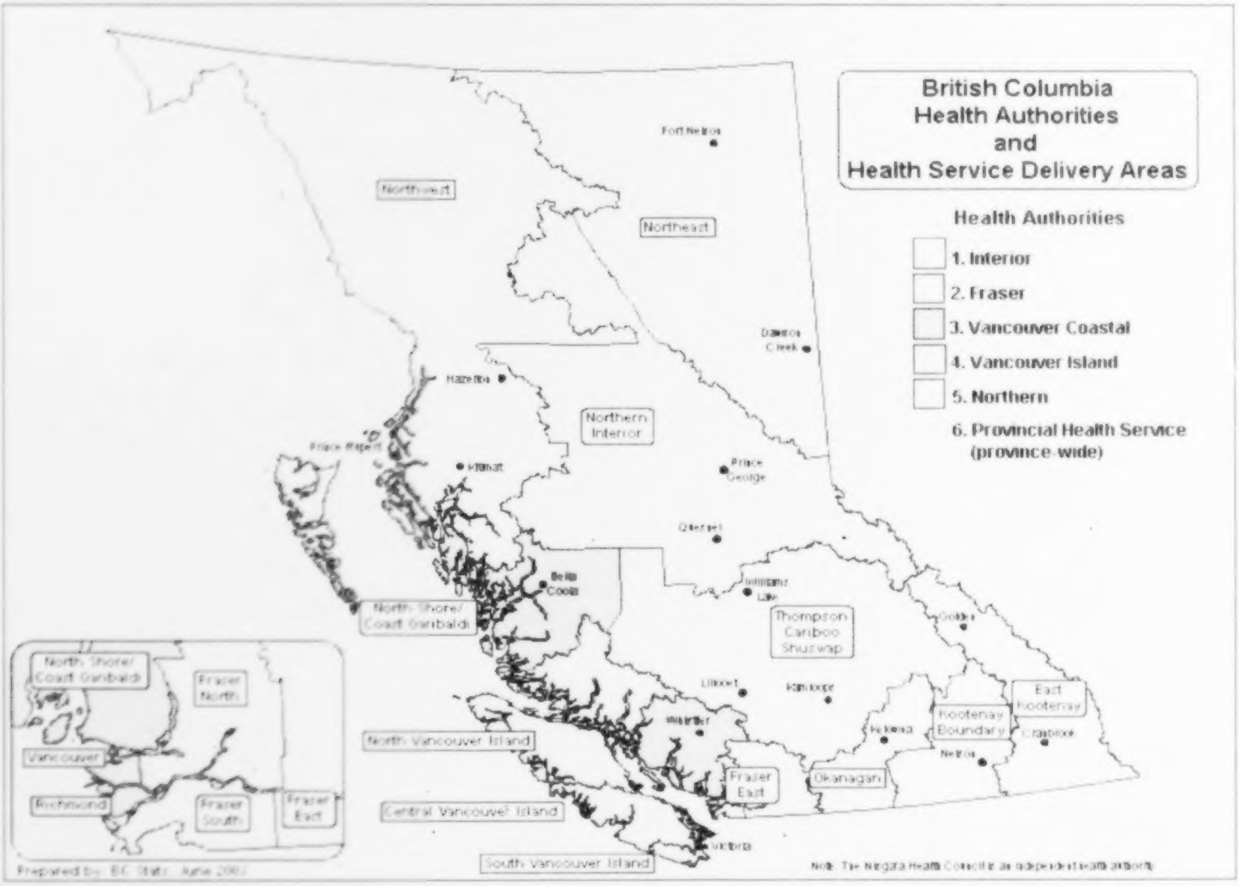
British Columbia Health Authorities and Health Service Delivery Areas
Health Authorities
1. Interior
2. Fraser
3. Vancouver Coastal
4. Vancouver Island
5. Northern
6. Provincial Health Service (province-wide)
Northwest
Northeast
Fort Nelson
Dawson Creek
Hazelton
Prince Rupert
Kitimat
Northern Interior
Prince George
Quesnel
Bella Coola
Williams Lake
North Shore/ Coast Garibaldi
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Golden
Lillooet
Kamloops
East Kootenay
Kootenay Boundary
Cranbrook
Kelowna
Nelson
Whistler
North Vancouver Island
Fraser East
Okanagan
Central Vancouver Island
South Vancouver Island
Victoria
Fraser North
Vancouver
Richmond
Fraser South
Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2002
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Statistical:

- IA – Income Assistance
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- ASMR – Age Standardized Mortality Rate

C. Glossary of Terms

Economy, Innovation and Education

Employment

Employment is the number of persons working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment to Population Ratio (15 to 64)

The employment to population ratio (15 to 64) is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment Income

Employment income is the aggregate of employment and self-employment income reported on tax returns as reported by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. For tax purposes employment/self-employment income includes wages and salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, com-missions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Manufacturing Shipments

Manufacturing shipments data are collected through surveys or administrative records of all manufacturers in Canada. The value of manufacturing shipments is the net selling value of goods made by the reporting establishments, or for their own accounts, from their own materials. Excluded are discounts, returns, allowances, taxes, duties, returnable containers, and contracted transportation charges for outward shipments. Included are transfers to other establishments of same companies, value of non-returnable containers, and book value of goods produced and shipped for the first time on a rental basis. Also included are consignment shipments to other countries.

Retail Sales

Retail sales are the aggregate sales made through retail locations. Excluded are direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machines, door-to-door, printed materials sold directly by the publisher such as newspapers and magazines, book and record clubs, and sales by businesses whose major activity is not retailing. However, catalogue/mail-order sales of businesses classed as "general merchandise stores" are included. Sales include all receipts of retailers including food serving, repairs and rentals net of returns, adjustments and discounts. Excluded are sales taxes and non-operating revenue.

Housing Starts

Housing starts is the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when the footing is installed. All new dwelling units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Smaller areas are sampled and an estimate for these is included in the information reported.

Non-Residential Building Permits

Non-residential building permits are the value of building permits issued by municipalities and regional districts and reported to Statistics Canada for industrial, commercial, and institutional and government new buildings as well as alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Secondary School Graduation Rate
The secondary school graduation rate is the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the indicated year including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams expressed as a percentage of the population 18 years old on July 1 of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

University Completion Rate
The university completion rate is the number of persons aged 25 to 54 with a university degree expressed as a percentage of the population between 25 and 54 years of age. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Natural and Applied Sciences Employment as a Percent of Total
Natural and applied sciences employment as a percent of total is number of persons employed in occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences expressed as a percentage of total employment. Included here are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts and programmers and associated technical occupations. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Business Incorporations
Business incorporations are the number of firms incorporated under the Companies Act, BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on business.

Business Bankruptcies
Business bankruptcies are the number of bankruptcies which are chiefly attributable to liabilities incurred as a result of carrying on a commercial venture or business and includes partnerships, proprietorships and limited companies. This is under federal bankruptcy legislation.

Population
Population refers to the number of Canadians and Non-permanent Residents who's usual place of residence is within the referenced geographic boundaries.

Environment, Health and Society

Air Quality
Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulates in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Most air quality monitors measure fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Provinces began monitoring $PM_{2.5}$ particulates in 2001.

Direct costs to health care resulting from poor air quality may be significant. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. Monitoring for PM_{10} is relatively new in Canada and most continuous monitoring stations do not have more than 5 or 6 years of data.

Cancer Mortality

Cancer mortality is the total number of cancer deaths expressed as a percentage of the population 45 years of age and older. Since age-standardised data is not available sub-provincially, and as 95% of cancer deaths are to persons 45 years and older, this base was used to calculate the percentages and thus reduce the distortion caused by differing age structure in the sub-provincial areas.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of remaining years of life at birth based on current mortality rates.

Low Birth Weight

The low birth weight rate is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births.

Personal and Property Crime Rate

The personal and property crime rate is the number of incidents, based on the most serious offence, known to the police, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Excluded are traffic incidents resulting in death or bodily harm. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Low Income Incidence

Low income incidence is the ratio (prevalence) of families and unattached individuals in low in-come (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals. Statistics Canada has set Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs) to be the income level at which 54.7% or greater of income after tax is being spent on food, shelter and clothing. The same LICO is used across Canada but is stratified by family size and urban area size. This measure of low income is used in absence of any official poverty measure in Canada. Families are defined as two or more related persons sharing a dwelling unit; unattached individuals are persons either living alone or with other unrelated person(s).

Income Assistance Recipients

Income assistance recipients are the number of persons 0 to 64 years of age receiving Income Assistance benefits expressed as a percentage of the population 0 to 64 years. Excluded are Disabled Persons, Children Living in the Home of a Relative and OAS/Seniors. Data does not include Aboriginal People living on reserve.

Employment Insurance Recipients

Employment insurance recipients are the number of persons 19 to 64 years of age receiving Employment Insurance expressed as a percentage of the population 19 to 64 years.

Topic Boxes

Cardiovascular System Mortality Rate
The number of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system (cardiovascular-diseases of the heart and stroke) as the underlying cause of death per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population.

Age Standardized Mortality Rate
A summary of age adjusted death rates by age and gender, which have been standardized to a "standard" population (1991 Canada Census) for the purpose of rate comparisons between genders, different time periods or different geographic locations. The ASMR is the theoretical number of deaths that would occur per 10,000 population, if the specific population had the same age structure as the standard population.

Secondary School Completion by School District
The school completion rate is the number of students entering Grade 8 who graduate within six years.

Aboriginal Identity
The Aboriginal Identity population refers to those people who reported having: 1) North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit identity and/or Registered Indian status as defined by the Indian Act and/or Band membership.

Status Indian
Status Indians are one part of the broad group of First Nations people in British Columbia. There is considerable interest in the health status of First Nations people whether Status, Non-Status or Métis, but in most cases, relevant data exist only for Status Indians. In order to analyze the characteristics of any group or population, there needs to be a way to clearly define group membership and identify the events (births, deaths, hospitalizations, etc.) that occur in that group. Status Indians were the only First Nations group that could be identified.

D. Data Tables

Economy, Innovation and Education

RPI1: Employment rate (employment to population ratio, 15 to 64 year olds)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	70.5	67.2	72.5	70.7	69.0	70.9	71.7	72.3	73.1	74.3
Vancouver CMA	71.3	70.5	69.6	68.7	69.7	71.0	69.7	70.1	71.3	71.9
Victoria CMA	71.4	69.5	71.2	68.7	72.4	72.9	70.1	69.7	71.3	72.8
Regional BC	69.2	68.4	68.6	67.9	66.2	68.0	67.1	67.4	68.0	68.6
BC	70.5	69.5	69.5	68.5	69.3	70.1	68.9	69.2	70.2	70.9

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI2: Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, $1992

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,874	11,890	12,008
Vancouver CMA	13,744	13,727	13,847	13,998	14,009	14,391	15,101	15,265	15,139	15,263
Victoria CMA	12,568	12,439	12,488	12,541	12,521	12,949	13,666	14,088	14,166	14,355
Regional BC	12,519	12,441	12,362	12,466	12,253	12,526	12,994	13,412	13,301	13,401
BC	12,656	12,603	12,636	12,755	12,681	13,014	13,609	13,887	13,786	13,901

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI3: Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita, $1992

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,979	7,177
Vancouver CMA	7,127	7,257	7,216	7,264	6,774	6,800	7,671	7,637	7,187	7,105
Victoria CMA	1,442	1,578	1,640	1,845	1,730	1,913	2,221	2,355	1,911	2,069
Regional BC	10,793	12,051	10,609	10,337	9,751	11,686	13,233	10,887	10,588	10,135
BC	7,809	8,378	7,806	7,733	7,248	8,000	9,034	8,131	7,753	7,557

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI4: Retail Sales Per Capita, $1992

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vancouver CMA	9,147	8,754	8,596	8,322	8,161	8,309	8,415	8,628	8,597	8,556
Victoria CMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional BC	7,512	7,616	8,170	7,867	8,006	8,344	8,776	9,065	9,026	9,752
BC	8,313	8,175	8,381	8,093	8,084	8,326	8,593	8,843	8,808	9,145

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI5: Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	6.2	5.9	5.8	3.5	3.7	2.6	2.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
Vancouver CMA	8.1	8.1	8.2	6.0	4.3	4.0	5.2	6.3	7.4	9.1
Victoria CMA	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.0	4.1	2.7	3.9	4.1	6.1	7.1
Regional BC	6.7	6.8	7.4	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.9	4.8	6.4
BC	7.2	7.1	7.4	5.0	4.1	3.6	4.2	5.3	6.3	7.8
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI6: Non-Residential Building Permits Per Capita $1992										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	700	308	288	279
Vancouver CMA	539	534	544	565	494	540	490	443	364	470
Victoria CMA	447	314	330	331	624	339	441	458	592	334
Regional BC	463	451	405	400	457	416	378	244	356	336
BC	481	464	452	462	472	456	452	365	376	402
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI7: High school graduates as a percentage of the 18 year old population										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA*	66.5	65.4	68.1	69.4	79.3	75.0	79.9	73.7	76.5	74.0
Vancouver CMA*	67.2	71.0	70.0	75.7	77.0	78.0	76.2	78.7	80.6	80.4
Victoria CMA*	62.4	65.5	63.6	66.9	68.0	71.0	69.2	69.3	73.6	67.9
Regional BC	64.5	63.5	64.3	67.4	69.4	72.1	71.3	70.3	71.3	67.6
BC	65.7	67.3	67.1	71.4	73.3	74.9	73.8	74.3	76.1	73.9
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada Note: *Abbotsford is the sum of School Districts 34 & 75, Vancouver is the sum of School Districts 35-45, Victoria is the sum of School Districts 61-63.										

RPI8: Percent of Population (Ages 25 to 54) with University Completion										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	13.8	12.4	16.3	12.6	13.5	13.0	11.8	13.1	12.1	12.2
Vancouver CMA	22.5	24.3	22.3	25.0	25.0	25.6	25.2	27.5	29.5	29.0
Victoria CMA	24.9	20.5	24.2	23.1	26.9	27.2	25.2	23.6	24.2	23.3
Regional BC	10.2	11.5	12.2	11.4	11.9	13.3	12.2	12.2	13.5	12.9
BC	17.9	19.0	18.6	19.6	20.1	21.0	20.3	21.6	23.2	22.6
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI9: Employment in Natural and Applied Sciences & Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.2	4.1	3.6	3.6
Vancouver CMA	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.5	7.9	7.2	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.6
Victoria CMA	5.5	5.9	6.5	6.9	5.7	8.1	8.2	7.5	7.8	7.3
Regional BC	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.2	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.5
BC	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.3	5.8

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI10: Business Incorporations less Bankruptcies Per 1,000 Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.5
Vancouver CMA	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.7
Victoria CMA	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.5	5.2
Regional BC	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.1
BC	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Environment, Health and Society

RPI11: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM$_{10}$ Concentrations (µg/m3)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver	15.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.3	13.8
Langley	13.0	12.4	11.2	11.8	12.3	12.5
Campbell River	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kamloops	17.9	16.9	13.1	15.0	14.1	14.2
Kelowna	17.4	16.2	15.5	16.7	13.0	14.2
Prince George	24.2	20.1	20.2	22.7	17.9	18.0

Air Quality - Annual Mean PM$_{2.5}$ Concentrations (µg/m3)

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Vancouver	5.3	5.8	4.1	5.8
Langley	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Campbell River	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kamloops	5.3	6.7	7.9	5.7
Kelowna	5.6	6.0	8.5	5.8
Prince George	9.4	9.2	10.8	10.6
Victoria	5.9	7.1	5.9	5.6

Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada

RPI12: Cancer Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Population 45 Years and Older

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.5
Vancouver CMA	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1
Victoria CMA	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.9
Regional BC	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5
BC	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI13: Life Expectancy at Birth (Years - Both Sexes, Two Year Averages)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	80.1	79.3	78.9	78.9	79.2	79.9	80.0	80.1	80.2	80.7
Vancouver CMA	79.0	79.1	79.4	79.7	80.1	80.6	81.0	81.2	81.5	81.7
Victoria CMA	79.3	79.6	79.6	79.6	80.1	80.7	80.6	80.5	81.1	81.3
Regional BC	78.0	78.2	78.4	78.6	78.9	79.3	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7
BC	78.0	78.2	78.4	78.6	78.9	79.3	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI14: Low Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams) Births as a Percent of Live Births

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.0	3.8	5.4	4.6	5.0	4.9	6.4
Vancouver CMA	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.9
Victoria CMA	4.8	5.2	4.4	4.7	5.3	4.6	4.9	5.7	5.9	5.4
Regional BC	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.2
BC	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI15: Personal and Property Crime Rate (Incidents Per 100 population)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	8.3	8.6	8.2	7.5	6.6	6.7	8.1	8.8	9.0	8.9
Vancouver CMA	11.2	11.7	10.2	9.5	9.0	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.6	8.3
Victoria CMA	8.6	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.7
Regional BC	8.8	8.6	8.3	7.8	7.2	7.0	6.9	7.2	7.9	7.7
BC	10.0	10.1	9.2	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.2	8.0

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI16: Percentage of Families & Unattached Individuals Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Vancouver CMA	24.0	22.4	26.4	26.8	24.8	25.7	23.1	22.5	23.0	19.8
Victoria CMA	26.2	22.2	18.9	19.9	19.4	18.6	21.0	16.3	13.4	19.9
Regional BC	11.8	12.3	16.1	17.7	15.7	15.7	15.8	15.9	17.8	17.5
BC	19.3	18.3	21.5	22.2	20.2	20.8	19.7	19.1	20.0	18.7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI17 - SI: Percent of Population 19-64 Years Receiving Employment Insurance Benefits

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.4
Vancouver CMA	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.0	2.8
Victoria CMA	3.6	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.6
Regional BC	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.1
BC	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.3

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

RPI17 - SI: Percent of Population 0 - 64 years Receiving Income Assistance

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	10.8	9.5	8.0	7.2	6.5	5.9	5.2	3.9	2.6	1.9
Vancouver CMA	9.3	8.1	6.8	6.0	5.2	4.7	4.3	3.4	2.3	1.7
Victoria CMA	9.8	8.8	7.3	6.4	5.8	5.4	4.9	3.6	2.3	1.7
RBC	11.9	10.7	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.6	7.1	5.4	3.6	2.6
BC	10.4	9.2	7.8	6.9	6.3	5.9	5.4	4.2	2.8	2.0

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Supplemental Information

Development Region

RPI1 - SI: Employment Rate by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	57.3	56.0	57.6	56.0	58.6	57.7	53.7	54.7	54.6	56.4
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	62.2	61.2	60.9	60.2	60.7	61.5	60.9	61.7	62.6	62.6
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	55.3	55.7	56.2	55.8	55.1	55.7	55.3	54.0	56.1	57.8
Kootenay	KN	59.3	54.8	53.7	57.1	56.6	57.7	57.5	54.3	55.2	54.9
Cariboo	CB	63.0	66.7	62.9	62.5	62.0	60.6	61.2	60.5	61.1	63.2
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	65.8	68.2	67.4	62.4	62.1	63.7	63.6	62.3	63.3	60.6
Northeast	NE	70.9	68.7	69.8	66.3	64.9	67.8	69.0	69.7	72.4	68.2
British Columbia	BC	60.7	59.9	59.8	59.0	59.7	60.1	59.0	59.4	60.3	60.8

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

RPI2 - SI: Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	11,816	11,675	11,626	11,542	11,301	11,762	12,317	12,683	12,612	12,824
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	13,386	13,352	13,423	13,562	13,579	13,961	14,636	14,833	14,717	14,844
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	10,718	10,609	10,532	10,683	10,706	10,796	11,179	11,582	11,497	11,793
Kootenay	KN	11,231	11,161	11,125	11,981	11,252	11,296	11,861	12,031	11,820	11,451
Cariboo	CB	13,415	13,533	13,495	13,441	13,142	13,262	13,401	13,851	13,991	13,629
North Coast	NC	12,532	12,706	12,376	11,807	11,580	12,250	13,028	12,469	12,051	11,627
Nechako	NK	12,378	12,398	12,205	12,313	11,955	12,559	12,768	13,047	13,249	12,869
Northeast	NE	14,336	14,310	13,995	14,643	14,683	13,947	14,691	16,147	15,776	16,226
British Columbia	BC	12,677	12,627	12,636	12,755	12,681	13,014	13,609	13,887	13,786	13,901

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

RPI3 - SI: Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,633	5,152	5,807	5,246	4,708	4,547
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,464	6,567	7,474	7,289	6,967	6,903
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,859	9,068	9,380	7,149	7,031	6,399
Kootenay	KN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,141	9,123	15,640	12,277	11,661	11,687
Cariboo	CB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,752	20,657	21,729	20,073	20,100	19,739
North Coast	NC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,901	17,581	n/a	16,388	14,576	13,921
Nechako	NK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21,017	24,139	22,184	19,771	22,111	18,591
Northeast	NE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,501	8,140	8,277	5,766	5,743	6,200
British Columbia	BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,248	8,000	9,034	8,131	7,753	7,557

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

Health Authority

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cancer Mortality by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Interior	IN	15.9	17.0	16.3	16.6	17.0	15.5	16.1	16.8	16.7	17.3
Fraser	FR	17.4	17.7	17.1	16.8	16.4	15.7	16.1	15.5	15.7	15.2
Vancouver Coastal	VC	16.3	15.6	15.6	15.8	15.6	14.7	14.4	13.9	13.4	14.1
Vancouver Island	VI	17.2	17.2	18.4	17.0	16.7	17.1	16.8	17.3	16.5	16.7
Northern	NO	19.1	19.3	18.4	18.5	18.8	17.7	18.8	18.3	18.2	17.6
British Columbia	BC	17.0	17.2	17.0	16.7	16.5	15.9	16.0	15.9	15.7	15.8

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cardiovascular Disease Mortality by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Interior	IN	23.3	23.2	22.4	22.0	21.3	20.4	19.2	19.0	18.8	18.0
Fraser	FR	24.6	23.9	24.4	22.3	22.0	21.0	19.5	19.3	18.2	18.7
Vancouver Coastal	VC	22.2	21.3	21.5	20.5	20.4	19.1	17.6	16.9	16.5	15.4
Vancouver Island	VI	22.6	22.3	23.0	21.1	20.3	20.6	18.1	19.0	17.5	16.7
Northern	NO	24.3	24.4	26.3	23.3	25.4	23.8	23.0	21.2	20.3	19.1
British Columbia	BC	23.7	23.1	23.5	21.9	21.6	20.8	19.2	18.9	18.1	17.6

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

RPI15 - SI: Low Weight Births (percent) by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Interior	IN	5.0	5.3	4.6	5.1	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.3
Fraser	FR	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.9
Vancouver Coastal	VC	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.7	5.4	4.6	5.3	5.7	5.6
Vancouver Island	VI	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.4	5.7	5.2
Northern	NO	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.6	5.1	4.1	5.0
British Columbia	BC	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.6

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

December 2005